

The Raven

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A VISIT TO COBB'S ISLAND DURING AUTUMNAL SHORE BIRD MIGRATION

By Maurice Brooks.

When one visits such ornithological "holy ground" as Cobb's Island, only some new discovery, or addition to the knowledge of the region's avifauna would seem to justify publication of another paper on this fascinating coastal island. My only excuse for making public these notes is to be found in the circumstance that most of the visits which ornithologists make to the island occur during the nesting season, while ours came at what may well have been the height of the southward shore bird migration.

A party of four, John George, of the University of Michigan, and I. B. Boggs, A. S. Margolin, and the writer, from West Virginia University, spent August 18, 1939 in the Chincoteague marshes, and made the trip to Cobb's Island on August 19. We were favored by a moderate storm, with fresh east winds, which came on the night of August 18.

The day at Chincoteague had partially prepared us for a variety of shore birds, since we found them in good numbers, along with an abundance of Clapper Rails at this point just to the north of the Cobb's Island region. We were not prepared, however, for the large flocks which we encountered on August 19.

Our trip was made in the clam boat of "Skipper" Jim Woodson, born and raised on nearby Hog Island, and having a good knowledge of the local bird life. We bucked a head tide to a point about a mile north of the life-saving station on Cobb's Island, getting en route a glimpse of the Black Skimmers on Cardwell's Island, whose private lives have been publicized by Dr. Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. Least, Common, and Forster's Terns, Laughing and Herring Gulls, and occasional flocks of Hudsonian Curlews and other smaller shore birds were seen on the way out to the Island. No sooner had we reached the bay shore of Cobb's Island, however, than we began to see really large flocks of shore birds, and these increased in size and frequency as we landed and crossed the narrow sand spit to the open ocean side of the island. In fact, it might be stated that the shore birds were in one continuous flock just as far as we could see along the ocean beach. No person not trained

in such matters could give any adequate estimate of the number of thousands present, and save for a few of the less common species, we attempted no estimates at all. This I know; during a large number of visits to Cape May and other South New Jersey points during autumnal migration I have not seen shore birds so numerous.

A brief discussion of the species of birds noted follows:

Ardea herodias. Great Blue Heron. Common in the marshes on the bay side of the island.

Casmerodius albus egretta. American Egret. A number seen in the marshes.

Egretta thula. Snowy Egret. Two seen at close enough range to make positive identification possible. In company with the more numerous juvenile Little Blues, the nervous, active behavior of the Snowys was noteworthy, and the yellow feet of the latter birds clinched the matter.

Hydranassa tricolor ruficollis. Louisiana Heron. We were pleased to see at close range three of these birds in company with other herons.

Florida caerulea caerulea. Little Blue Heron. All of the birds of this species ~~soon~~ were in the white plumage.

Botaurus lentiginosus. American Bittern. One flew from an opening in the marsh.

Ixobrychus exilis. Least Bittern. One noted flying above the marsh grass.

Striped juvenile herons seen were either Black-crowned or Yellow-crowned Night Herons, but we did not see them sufficiently well to make positive identification possible.

Haematopus palliatus palliatus. American Oyster-catcher. Fairly common on the beaches toward the north end of the island. We counted over fifty birds, many of them young of the year. All young birds were able to fly well.

Charadrius melodus. Piping Plover. A few seen and heard, usually farther back from the beaches than the other plovers.

Charadrius semipalmatus. Semipalmated Plover. Many almost unmixed flocks of large size, and smaller flocks and scattered individuals everywhere along the beaches. Apparently the second most common shore bird.

Pagolla wilsonia wilsonia. Wilson's Plover. Among the flocks of Semipalmated Plovers were scattered individuals of this species. The darker, stouter bills were noted. We saw no considerable flocks of these birds, nor could we distinguish young of the year.

Squatarola squatarola. Black-bellied Plover. Fine flocks of fifty to one hundred birds all up and down the beaches. We were struck by the numbers of these birds still in high breeding plumage.

Arenaria interpres morinella. Ruddy Turnstone. Scattered individuals among flocks of other birds. Not common at the time of our visit.

Phaeopus hudsonicus. Hudsonian Curlew. Good numbers of these birds throughout the region. "Skipper" Woodson reported a flock which he estimated at 500 birds seen a few days before. We saw no such large groups, but smaller flocks were on the island, flying over the bay, and on the mainland.

Catoptrophorus semipalmatus. Willet. A number of these birds, calling, met us as we landed on the inner beach. They were doubtless breeding birds of the eastern race, although we could not distinguish any juveniles. We had expected to find these birds more common than they were at the time of our visit.

Totanus melanoleucus. Greater yellow-legs.

Totanus flavipes. Lesser Yellow-legs. Both of these sandpipers were present in good numbers in the bay marshes. The latter species was more common.

Calidris canutus rufus. American Knot. Good-sized flocks of "Robin-Snipe" were feeding on the inner beach. They were associated with the Willets. Woodson stated that the present season was a good one for these birds.

Pisobia melanotos. Pectoral Sandpiper. A few in the marshes.

Pisobia minutilla. Least Sandpiper. Not many identified in the flocks of "peeps" which we saw.

Limnodromus griseus. Dowitcher. Fairly common on the mud flats of the bay shore.

Ereunetes pusillus. Semipalmated Sandpiper. The most abundant "peep", apparently about as abundant as the Semipalmated Plovers.

Ereunetes maurii. Western Sandpiper. Close range, and the presence of both Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers, made us certain that there were many Westerns in the flocks of the "peeps". I am under the impression that the proportions of Western and Semipalmated Sandpipers at Cobb's Island compares rather closely with the proportions of these two species on Lake Erie, a territory with which I am somewhat familiar.

Crocethia alba. Sanderling. Apparently the most abundant shore bird.

Doubtless there may have been rarities among the shore birds which we missed, but we were much more impressed by the numbers of individuals than by the number of species. Even so, seventeen species on the island, together with Killdeers, Spotted, and Solitary Sandpipers on the mainland, added up to a respectable list.

Larus argentatus smithsonianus. Herring Gull. The vanguard from the north had arrived.

Larus dolawarensis. Ring-billed Gull. A few noted.

Larus atricilla. Laughing Gull. Abundant, many in changing plumage.

Golochelidon nilotica aranea. Gull-billed Tern. One of the surprises and gratifications of the trip was to find these southern terns in fair numbers on the island. We had thought that we would be lucky to see them at all, and so were much pleased to see them, and to hear their characteristic call notes.

Sterna forsteri. Forster's Tern. Present in good numbers, although identification was sometimes difficult for us, due to the presence of common Terns in a variety of plumages.

Sterna hirundo hirundo. Common Tern. Abundant.

Sterna antillarum antillarum. Least Tern. Abundant throughout the territory.

Thalasseus maximus maximus. Royal Tern. We saw only a few, although we did not visit their breeding territory on the island.

Rynchops nigra nigra. Black Skimmer. Still the real show-birds of the island, circling, darting, feeding over the tidal creeks, and carrying out their aerial evolutions in wonderful flock formations. The only young birds not able to fly which we found on the island were three young skimmers. They alternately hid and ran, with surprising speed, over the beach sand, their gray down plumage serving to conceal them wonderfully well. While we held two of the young birds the adults flew about us, manifesting every sign of disapproval, but not actually coming within striking distance. The mandibles of the young birds showed but little difference in length at this time.

The only Passerine birds seen on the island were a few swallows in migration, number Meadowlarks, and a number of Song Sparrows (probably M. m. atlantica). On this date we missed entirely the Boat-tailed Grackles, both on the island and on the mainland.

Local reports about Oyster had it that some illegal shooting of Curlew and "Robin-snipe" was being carried on, and it was a pleasure to see the launch of a game warden threading its way between the low islands.

Such a hurried visit as ours can scarcely be expected to yield much, if anything, of scientific value, but its returns to the visitors are rich in satisfactions. For hill-bred persons the sight of coastal sands and tidal marsh must always be strange and fascinating, but when to this is added the opportunity to see at close range Oyster-catchers, Willets, Curlews, Skimmers, and other showy birds, not singly but in profusion, the toute ensemble becomes overwhelming.

West Virginia University
Morgantown, W. Va.

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NORFOLK BIRD NEWS

By Mrs. A. C. Reed

On September 20, while looking over the little marsh at Cottage Toll Rd., a short-eared owl, as I believe it to be, suddenly came up out of the tall marsh grass and flew a short distance into an ivy-covered tree. As it flapped away, a large light-colored area plainly showed on the primaries of each wing. Otherwise, it appeared brown. This occurred at about 8 A. M., on a cloudy day.

The same day, at Little Creek Lake I saw my first Cape May Warbler for this area. It was a male and there appeared to be still a touch of chestnut about the eye. The yellow area on the side of the neck was noted, the streaked breast, and white wing-patch. He took a bath and then preened himself in a willow. On November 9, Mrs. Barefield, Mrs. Lester, and I saw two yellow palm warblers at the Biological Survey Refuge; this likewise is a new specie on my list for this section.

On October 25, we saw a duck hawk cruising down the beach over the sand dunes below Sand Bridge. On December 26, a duck hawk was noted on the Refuge, and on December 29, Dr. Grey and I saw 3 duck hawks at the Pea Island Refuge, N. C. We asked Mr. Walker if he had ever seen the duck hawks catching waterfowl. He replied that he scarcely ever saw them catch anything, altho they stayed around the refuge all winter. Apparently they use the telephone posts as look-out places from which to survey the country.

Also on October 25, we found a short-billed marsh wren in the grasses behind the sand dunes at Sand Bridge. Again, December 26, we found three there in the marsh. I have no winter record of the Long-billed marsh wren. Likewise at Pea Island, we found the short-billed and not the long-billed, altho doubtless the long-billed winters there. It would seem as tho the short-billed marsh wren was the most common winter resident. December 26, we found a winter wren on the Biological Survey Refuge.

Mr. Bailey reports an oyster-catcher was blown into the sanctuary, October 31, during a storm.

After a two-day rainstorm, November 2, we had the first invasion of cowbirds, 1000 being counted in one flock. These birds come into the Cape Henry Section after storms - rain or snow - from the valley. Also at Patterson's Marsh we felt we secured all the identification markings of an immature white-crowned sparrow (gray breast from chin down, large size, wing bars, pink bill, high crown effect).

November 9, sixteen greater yellow-legs, and a bittern were still at the Refuge. On the flats behind the sand dunes were eleven pipits and two pectoral sandpipers.

Little Creek Lake being a part of the city waterworks, wood ducks are protected there. November 14, Mrs. Barefield and I watched fifty wood ducks go to sleep in the woods, and on the 17th I watched seventy-five. At first a few scouts fly overhead calling. These are followed by others. Finally the ducks begin dropping down into the water. More and more come, and for a while they swim about, watching to see that all is safe. In the shadowy light the eye picks out the handsome males, next the subdued females and lastly the young males. Finally the ducks begin to fly up onto the bank. For a while they work around on the ground, looking for acorns I believe, but gradually they fade into the woods. The first night a movement on our part started the host in the trees to whistling. There seemed to be ducks all about us altho in the increasing darkness we had not seen any go into the branches of the trees near us. The second night, I waited until all seventy-five apparently were in the trees and everything perfectly quiet. The stars came out, shining brightly, and were reflected in the lake. It was one of those never-to-be-forgotten moments in nature. - (The wood ducks are not fed unless there is a sudden freeze.

Thanksgiving week, we made two trips across to Cape Charles on the ferry. Sea birds were practically all at the Cape Charles end. There was a raft of seventy-one surf scoters, almost all males; twenty American scoters, all males, a few white-winged scoters, and about thirty-five all squaws. In crossing, there were about fifty gannets, many common loons and a few red-throated loons.

December 3, Mr. Bailey had an exhausted dovekie come to the refuge. December 5, Mrs. Darden took moving pictures in color. There proved to be a slight defect in the camera letting in diffused light, but the pictures of the swans and geese were lovely nevertheless. In one cove we counted forty-five cygnets and fifty-one adults swans. Mr. Bailey says this is a high proportion of cygnets, ordinarily there are twenty-five to thirty among fifty adults. When taking flight the adults, being wilder, always leave first. As they feed, the dabbling ducks gather about, ready to benefit from any food the swans bring up. Mr. Barco says "the swans always come in from the northeast and go out by the northwest". This day, we made our first record of Bewick's wren, and found forty-eight horned larks feeding on bacopa (waterhyssop), on "the flats". Christmas Day, following snow, horned larks and pipits were along the Shore Drive, Norfolk. Pintails, baldpates, and coots formed a beautiful sight; three canvas backs, twenty-four green-winged teal, and eight ruddy ducks.

December 10, Mrs. Barefield and her son, Leroy, saw two Bewick's wrens on the Hunchback Rd. One sang his song-sparrow-like song. Leroy said, "Mother, he has a ladder for his tail!" Mrs. Barefield has a late record for the osprey, December 7. A group of brown-headed nuthatches have been at her home since June 24. Twelve is the most she has counted at one time. They come into the pines at about 9 o'clock in the morning and again in the late afternoon. Evidently the little band roves with some regularity over the pine barren dunes near her place. November 29, she had twelve greater scaup there. She has two spring records for the red-breasted nuthatch, which is rare with us, last April 6, and May 11.

Mrs. Darden reports the yellow-crowned night heron in front of her home December 18; and the American egret and adult Black-crowned night heron, December 22.

I would like to tell the members of the VSO that a trip to the Pea Island Refuge, N. C. is a wonderful experience. On that refuge it is possible to drive with Mr. Walker in his truck to various ponds and marshy places. From the car one may look out over the water and at close range see the waterfowl, or even climb up the dikes and peep over the rim at the ducks and geese below. The chief difference in that refuge and ours is the large number of shovelers and more gadwalls there. The birds are not in as great numbers as at Back Bay, but we saw more species. There were about 100 snow geese (these are beginning to come into Back Bay), and twenty-eight willets. We flushed up two barn owls from the marsh; one had a regular "form" under the grasses there. Driving down the beach to the refuge we saw about one hundred black-backed gulls, the immatures being in greatest number. Mr. Walker often rides from Oregon Inlet to Virginia Beach. He says he never sees the black-backs at our end. I do not have a record of one. The prize of the day was twenty-one marbled godwits. They circled about, performing beautifully in front of us. In order that you may not think I was "seeing thing", will state that Dr. Grey and Mr. Walker were both there!

December 31, a Forster's tern at Dam's Neck, fifty tree swallows.

1519 Morris Avenue,
Norfolk, Virginia.

Saw-whet Owl at Hot Springs

Mr. Kenneth Ellis, of Hot Springs, Virginia, picked up a dead Saw-whet Owl (Cryptoglaux acadica acadica) in the gorge below the Cascade Gold Course, five miles south of Hot Springs, on December 8, 1939. He brought the bird to me for identification, and I have the skin. The bird was a male, in very poor flesh but with no apparent wound.

J. J. Murray,
Lexington, Virginia.

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Lexington Notes

A Double-crested Cormorant spent several days on North River at East Lexington during October. I saw the bird on October 19, and 22nd, and it had been seen by several people who did not know what it was, for some days prior to these dates. Certain ducks - Mallards, Black Ducks of both races, and Green-winged Teals - have been much more common than usual this winter at Big Spring Pond. The Bewick's Wren (December 19), Red-eyed Towhee (December 21) and Swamp Sparrow (December 21) were seen here for the first time in mid-winter. A Red-bellied Woodpecker, rarely seen in town, has been in my yard since November 29. The Black-capped Chickadee (probably the newly described Appalachian race) has been added to the Rock-bridge County list, one having been collected on December 19, and several others seen at the same time.

J. J. Murray,
Lexington, Virginia.

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ANNUAL MEETING

The Kavanaugh Hotel, 131 N. Main Street, Harrisonburg, has been selected by the committee, to be the headquarters for the Society's meeting on May 10, and 11. The afternoon and evening programs, as well as the annual dinner, will be held there. The cost of dinner is \$1.00 per plate.

A field trip to the George Washington National Forest, west of Harrisonburg, is being planned for Saturday morning. This area offers a variety of habitats which should provide rich fields for study, including a considerable acreage of virgin forest.

In the interests of economy and efficiency the committee would appreciate information relative to the dinner and field trip. Each member is urged to mail a card to D. Ralph Hostetter, Eastern Mennonite School, Harrisonburg, stating (1) whether you will be present at the annual dinner, and (2) whether you expect to go on the field trip. This information should be in the hands of the committee by April 30.

Registration will begin at 1:00 P. M. The afternoon program will run from 1:30 to 5:00; the business meeting at 5:00; dinner at 6:30; and evening program at 8:00.

It is hoped that many of the members will plan to present papers. Those planning to do so should send titles to J. J. Murray, Lexington, Virginia, before

May 1, with some indication as to the time required for the paper.

D. Ralph Hostetter,
Harrisonburg, Va.

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THE 1939 CHRISTMAS CENSUS IN VIRGINIA

Norfolk, Virginia. (Little Creek, Hunchback Road, Little Creek Lake by city waterworks and city airport, Lynnhaven Bridge, Cape Henry, White Pond in Seashore State Park, Rifle Range at Va. Beach).--Dec. 17; 7:45 A. M. to 4:45 P. M. Cloudy, clearing in late afternoon; slight westerly wind all day; temp. 45° at start, 62° at return. Observers together entire census; 43 miles by car, 7 on foot. Pied-billed Grebe, 7; Great Blue Heron, 3; Mallard, 33; Common Black Duck, 31; Baldpate, 1; Ring-necked Duck, 43; Hooded Merganser, 12; Red-breasted Merganser, 16; Turkey Vulture, 8; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Bald Eagle, 5; Sparrow Hawk, 3; Bob-white, 3; Killdeer, 8; Herring Gull, 112; Ring-billed Gull, 126; Bonaparte's Gull, 114; Kingfisher, 1; Flicker, 3; Pilbated Woodpecker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 7; Tree Swallow, 1; Crow, 105; Carolina Chickadee, 1; Tufted Titmouse, 4; Brown-headed Nuthatch, 5; Brown Creeper, 3; Carolina Wren, 2; Mockingbird, 2; Catbird, 4; Brown Thrasher, 1; Robin, 26; Hermit Thrush, 2; Bluebird, 7; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 5; Pipit, 29; Starling, 81; Myrtle Warbler, 94; Maryland Yellow-throat, 1; English Sparrow, 5; Meadowlark, 13; Redwing, 28; Cowbird, 20; Cardinal, 5; Savannah Sparrow, 3; Junco, 66; Field Sparrow, 3; White-throated Sparrow, 10; Fox Sparrow, 3; Swamp Sparrow, 4; Song Sparrow, 6. Total 53 species; 1080 individuals. The warm, calm day, with wind offshore doubtless accounts for the fact that so few sea birds are recorded. Mrs. C. A. Barefield, Mrs. A. C. Reed.

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Amelia C. H. Va. Down Amelia branch about one mile, through woods and fields to Nibb's Creek, up creek to Hardaway pond and back through woods and fields. By auto to Winterham, 2 miles on foot through adjoining farms. By auto to Beaver Pond, 3 miles on foot around pond and adjoining woods, by auto home.

Dec. 18, 7 A. M. to 5:15 P. M. with a half hour stop for lunch. Cloudy until 9 A. M., clear rest of day, very little wind. Temp at start 42°, at return 60°. Observer alone. Miles on foot about 12, by auto 18. Greatest distance between points 12 miles.

Black Duck, 2; Wood Duck, 3; Lesser Scaup Duck, 9; Turkey Vulture, 6; Killdeer, 9; Great Horned Owl, 1; Kingfisher, 1; Flicker, 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 4; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 4; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Prairie Horned Lark, 9; Blue Jay, 8; Crow, 18; Chickadee, 7; Tufted Titmouse, 8; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Winter Wren, 2; Carolina Wren, 15; Mockingbird, 9; Hermit Thrush, 1; Bluebird, 9; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 3; Shrike, 2; Starling, 10; Myrtle Warbler, 3; House Sparrow, 40, (partly est.) Meadow Lark, 33; Purple Grackle, 18; (1 flock) Cardinal, 16; Purple Finch, 2; Goldfinch, 5; Towhee, 1; Junco, 70; (partly est.) Field Sparrow, 37; White-throated Sparrow, 41; Song Sparrow, 21. Species 38, individuals 434.

Barred Owl heard night of 17th, Bob-White seen the 16th. A flock of what, I believe, were Pipits was seen at some distance while taking the census. Kinglets and brown creepers have been scarce this winter. Grackles are unusual with us in winter.

John B. Lewis.

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Lynchburg, Va. (fields, woods, low ground around Timber Lake, Tomahawk Swamp, College Lake).--Dec. 21; 7:40 to 10:45 A. M., 12M. - 4:30 P. M. Partly cloudy; ground bare; wind, very strong southwest at start, shifting to northwest by night; temp. 36° at start, 36° at end. Observers in groups as follows: Party I, all 6 observers, 3 hours, 4 miles; party II, 3 observers, 3½ hours, 2 miles; party III, 3 observers, 3½ hours, 4 miles; party IV, all 6 observers, ½ hour, 1 mile. Total miles afoot, 11; total hours afoot, 10½.--Mallard, 2; Black Duck, 1; Lesser Scaup, 1; American Golden-eye, 1; Turkey Vulture, 10; Black Vulture, 11; Sparrow Hawk, 6; Killdeer, 1; Woodcock, 2; Mourning Dove, 47; Kingfisher, 3; Flicker 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Prairie Horned Lark, 15; Crow, 18; Carolina Chickadee, 19; Tufted Titmouse, 10; White-breasted Nuthatch, 5; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 5; Brown Creeper, 1; Winter Wren, 3; Carolina Wren, 3; Mockingbird, 6; Hermit Thrush, 1; Bluebird, 12; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 14; Starling, 45; English Sparrow, 8; Meadowlark, 13; Cardinal, 25; Purple Finch, 2; Goldfinch, 20; Junco, 363; Tree Sparrow, 12; Chipping Sparrow, 3; Field Sparrow, 25; White-throated Sparrow, 31; Fox Sparrow, 2; Swamp Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 33. Total 41 species, 785 individuals.--(Listed on Dec. 20, but not found on Dec. 21; BOB-white, 15; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Blue Jay, 1.) Kingsley Stevens, Kenneth Lawless, Mrs. James W. Wiltshire, Jr., Bill McIntosh, Edward Calvert, Ruskin S. Freer.

Harrisonburg, Va. Dec. 23; 7:45 A. M. to 3:15 P. M.; clear, cirro-stratus clouds toward sunrise, sharp south wind; temperature 28° at start, 39.5° at noon, and 39° at return; cloudy from 9:00 A. M. to 12:00 M., clear in P. M.; thin covering of ice over pools and ponds. Waterman's Wood to Tide Spring and return, diameter 12 miles; farmland, pine-cedar, oak, and oak-cedar woodlots, one with small shallow stream; 21 miles by auto, 8.5 miles on foot. Three observers working together. Turkey Vulture, 15; Black Vulture, 4; Sparrow Hawk, 4; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Prairie Horned Lark, 2; Blue Jay, 4; Crow, 403; Carolina Chickadee, 5; Tufted Titmouse, 9; White-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Winter Wren, 2; Mockingbird, 5; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1; Starling, 391; English Sparrow, 29; Purple Grackle, 1; Cardinal, 25; Slate-colored Junco, 83; Tree Sparrow, 35; White-throated Sparrow, 2; Song Sparrow, 2. Total, 22 species, 1029 individuals. Harold D. Lehman, Daniel B. Suter, D. Ralph Hostetter.

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Stuarts Draft, Va. (Big Levels Game Refuge from CCC Camp F-8Va., through Refuge to Cold Spring to Greenville and return through Refuge via Stuarts Draft in automobile. Along South River from point 3 miles above Stuarts Draft down river six and one-half miles and return through woods south of River).--Dec. 21; 7:30 A. M. to 5 P. M. Clear to cloudy; slight covering of snow; wind 20 m.p.h. northwest; temp. 29° at start, 31° at return. Observers in groups as follows; Party I, 1 observer, 9 hrs., 37 miles; Party II, 1 observer, 9 hrs., 34 miles. Total miles afoot, 17; total miles by automobile, 54. Common Black Duck, 1; Turkey Vulture, 17; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 2; Ruffed Grouse, 2; Bobwhite, one covey, 14; Domestic Pigeon, 1; Mourning Dove, 2; Screech Owl, 1; Hairy Woodpecker 1; Downy Woodpecker, 7; Prairie Horned Lark, 26; Blue Jay, 1; Crow, 640; Carolina

Chickadee, 16; Tufted Titmouse, 17; Winter Wren, 2; Carolina Wren, 3; Mockingbird, 5; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 7; Starling, 500+; English Sparrow, 40+; Meadowlark, 3; Cardinal, 23; Purple Finch, 8; Goldfinch, 6; Slate-colored Junco, 52; Tree Sparrow, 52; Field Sparrow, 6; White Throated Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 4. Total 31 species; 1461 individuals.--W. R. DeGarmo and J. E. Thornton.

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Lexington, Va. (White Rock Mountain, Big Spring Pond, and cedar woods along North River, three typical habitats, not contiguous but in required limits).--Dec. 21; 8 A. M. to 5:30 P. M., $\frac{1}{2}$ hour out for lunch. Clear, clouding in late afternoon; ground frozen, with a bit of snow; high southwest wind; temp. 34° at start, 44° at noon, 32° at return. Observers as follows; Party I, morning, 3 observers, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ hrs., 8 miles afoot; Party II, afternoon, 4 observers, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours, 3 miles afoot. Total miles afoot, 11; by automobile (only used to get to stations) 30 miles. Great Blue Heron, 1; Mallard, 15; Red-legged Black Duck, 3; Common Black Duck, 12; Green-winged Teal, 10; Turkey Vulture, 89; Black Vulture, 92; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 2; Killdeer, 6; Kingfisher, 3; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Crow, 37; Carolina Chickadee, 13; Tufted Titmouse, 18; White-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Winter Wren, 2; Carolina Wren, 7; Robin, 2; Bluebird, 6; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 8; Migrant Shrike, 1; Starling, 79; English Sparrow, 25; Cardinal, 107; Red-eyed Towhee, 1; Junco, 110; Tree Sparrow, 61; White-throated Sparrow, 6; Swamp Sparrow, 3; Song Sparrow, 8. Total, 33 species, 736 individuals. Heavy wind following warm days made the day a poor one. An hour and a half was spent on the side of White Rock Mountain before a single bird was sighted. Towhee and Swamp Sparrow never known to winter here before. 78 Cardinals found in one quarter mile strip of weeds. Bewick's Wren on the 19th. Dickson Vardell Murray, (morning), Robert P. Carroll and Jimmy Murray (afternoon), James R. Sydnor and J. J. Murray (all day).

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Roanoke, Va. (Hollins College to Bennett Springs, and along Roanoke River three miles west from Roanoke, thence to Bennet Springs, elevation 950 to 2400 feet).--Dec. 17; 7 A. M. to 4 P. M. Clear; ground bare, no wind at start, brisk west wind at return; temp. 47° at start, 54° at return. Observers in groups as follows: Party I, 4 observers, 5 hours, 4 miles; Party II, 1 observer, 4 hours, 3 miles; Party III, 2 observers, 4 hours, 4 miles. Total miles afoot, 11; total hours afoot, 13. Turkey Vulture, 4; Black Vulture, 10; Coopers Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Ruffed Grouse, 3; Wilson Snipe, 1; Screech Owl, 1; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Crow, 42; Chickadee, 8; Tufted Titmouse, 7; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 3; Brown Creeper, 1; Winter Wren, 1; Carolina Wren, 8; Mockingbird, 5; Hermit Thrush, 1; Bluebird, 2; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 10; Shrike, 2; Starling, 300; English Sparrow, 4; Field Sparrow, 5; White-crowned sparrow, 13; White-throated Sparrow, 4; Song Sparrow, 20. Total 34 species; 554 individuals. A. O. English, Edna Becker, Helen Pillans, Sallie McLain, T. L. Engleby, M. G. Lewis, Carroll Wood (Roanoke Bird Club).

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Blacksburg, Montgomery Co., Va. (V. P. I. farm and campus, along Price's and Brush Mountains and Strouble's Creek to New River and along New River 8 miles to McCoy, within 13-mile diameter).--Dec. 19; 6:30 A. M. to 5:30 P. M. Ground bare;

clear to increased cloudiness, raining at 7 P. M.; no wind at start to brisk south wind by afternoon; temp. 32° at start, 50° at return. Observers in 4 groups of 2 each, afield all day. Party I, starting 2 miles N. W. of Blacksburg on Tom's Creek, thence along Brush Mountain to McCoy, and up New River to Whitehorn Ferry; 16 miles, 32 species observed. Party II, starting 4 miles south of Blacksburg on Strouble's Creek, thence along Price's Mountain and Strouble's Creek to New River and down New River to Whitehorn Ferry; 11 miles, 29 species observed. Party III, V. P. I. Campus and farm; 12 miles 49 species observed. Party IV, starting 4 miles south of Blacksburg on Strouble's Creek, thence along both sides of Strouble's Creek to Blacksburg, working sections of V. P. I. campus and farm not covered by Party III and to Whitehorn Ferry to pick up Parties I and II; 8 miles afoot, 46 miles by car, 48 species observed. Total miles afoot, 47; by automobile 46; total hours afoot and by automobile, 44. Horned Grebe, 1; Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Mallard, 1; Red-legged Black Duck, 1; Gadwell, 1; Pintail, 3; Green-winged Teal, 1; Ring-necked Duck, 6; Lesser Scaup, 3; Bufflehead, 11; Hooded Merganser, 9; Turkey Vulture, 100 (est.); Black Vulture, 5; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-tailed Hawk, 7; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Pigeon Hawk, 1 (Addy and Rivers); Sparrow Hawk, 7; Ruffed Grouse, 5; Bob-white, 50 (est.) (5 coveys of which 3 were heard whistling from roosts at 6:50 A. M.); Killdeer, 14; Wilson's Snipe, 24; Domestic Pigeon (wild), 11; Mourning Dove, 36; Screech Owl, 5 (4 of which were heard before daybreak); Great Horned Owl, 3 (heard answering one another at 6:50 A. M.); Belted Kingfisher, 2; Flicker, 1; Piloted Woodpecker, 5; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 6; Downy Woodpecker, 24; Prairie Horned Lark, 92 (part est.); Crow, 500 (est.); Carolina Chickadee, 94; Tufted Titmouse, 47; White-breasted Nuthatch, 27; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 14; Brown Creeper, 9; House Wren, 1 (Addy and Rivers); Winter Wren, 14; Carolina Wren, 33; Mockingbird, 11; Robin, 5; Bluebird, 17; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 61; American Pipit, 12 (Addy and Rivers); Migrant Shrike, 3; Starling, 2500 (est.); English Sparrow, 120 (est.); Meadowlark, 34; Red-winged Blackbird, 3; Purple Grackle, 1; Cardinal, 167; Purple Finch, 5; Pine Siskin, 5; Goldfinch, 103; Towhee, 1; Slate-colored Junco, 379 (part est.); Tree Sparrow, 97, Field Sparrow, 34; White-crowned Sparrow, 43; White-throated Sparrows, 22; Fox Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 144. Total 65 species; 4947 (part est.) individuals. Other species observed on Dec. 18.-- Cedar Waxwing, 10, and Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1 (took Cardinal at banding station). Also, a flock of 19 Rusty Blackbirds seen almost daily prior to Dec. 18. Due to complete failure of the white oak mast crop the Blue Jay and Red-headed Woodpecker normally abundant species, are totally absent this winter.--Roy Wood, C. O. Handley, Jr., Donald Shipley, Leonard Llewellyn, C. E. Addy, D. G. Rivers, D. J. Woolley and C. O. Handley.

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WHY I MAKE NO CHRISTMAS CENSUS

Years ago, when I first heard of a Bird Census, I was enthusiastic to participate. I prepared a fine report, let it "season" a day or so, and then sent it in to the proper parties - only to be told they were sorry, I was too late. I do not blame them; but ardor vanished.

This year, I decided to try again - for The Raven. So I was out on December 26, Christmas boots and all.

How many English Sparrows and Starlings did I see before I left home? Would it do to say three of one and six of the other? Well, here is another Starling, and still another. Surely that will make it more than right.

Hello! There is a Goldfinch! Three! Four! Five! Did I get them all, at that? No, there are others. Twelve. There they go over into that thicket.

White-throats! Right here at me! Singing! And I hear others singing over yonder in the thicket. How many are here? (Two Song Sparrows, singing a little. No, three.) Did I count that White-throat before? Just six? I know there are at least a dozen in these weeds; I can hear them. Oh well; we'll call it eight.

And now over to the thicket for the others... My soul! the Goldfinches! All through this honeysuckle tangle. How many? But some of them I have counted already. The White-throats! as thick as hops! What guess should I make as to the number? How do these other fellows say so glibly, "White-throated Sparrows, 27; Goldfinches, 63;" etc., etc.? And, by the way, how many Song Sparrows have I gotten so far? Six? or sixteen? Is that the same Downy I saw a few minutes ago? Or is it another one?

And from that time on, as I tramped along, I had two words ringing over and over in my ears - "Veracious, mendacious"...."Varacious, mendacious". Worse than Mark Twain's "Punch, brothers.." Another hour, and they had developed the swollen dignity of nouns - "Veracity, mendacity". And two other words had filtered in - "Sagacity", "Audacity". Out in those quiet woods alone I was fast going mad. As I climbed into my car to return home for lunch I found myself putting the four words together in fashion something like this: "It would be sheer audacity to question their varacity; my own sagacity forbids use of "mendacity"."

I tell you, it took calf's head stew, old Virginia ham, Plum pudding, (Mrs. Thos. Jefferson's recipe), Suffolk salted peanuts, and home-made bonbons - all Christmas gifts - to rid my head of that whirling madness. But I was back again on a pretty level keel, and was ready to take to the woods, when the maid appeared: "They's a couple waitin' downstairs, sur, for you to marry 'em."

But a few notes.

Some ice, this December 26; a little. Temperature rising from forty degrees at nine o'clock. A fresh breeze from the west. The sky mostly overcast. Ideal sparrow country, beside streams, with good low cover and a few trees.

A few Black Duck, and four Mergansers, probably American. "Progress", hunters, and water chestnuts are driving the ducks from the upper Potomac. Fifty or sixty Gulls, mostly Herring, but some Ring-billed. Not a hawk or an eagle during the morning. Unusual. Probably because I was mostly on the edge of town. Two Brown Creepers. One Winter Wren, and occasionally the song, or the furtive peeping of the Carolina Wren. Three Robins, two together and one alone. One Golden-crowned Kinglet seen; other kinglets heard. About fifteen Red-winged Blackbirds. Etc., etc. But it was Fringillidae territory; and these I saw, Six or more Cardinals; Goldfinches, enough to bring memories of Spring (possibly 75 or more); Slate-colored Juncoes, quite many; Tree Sparrows, possibly six or eight, possibly more. White-throated Sparrows in two large loose flocks, singing a little; one lone Fox Sparrow seen, but 'll guarantee there were others near. Not a Swamp Sparrow at all. And always the Song Sparrow is common, singing to-day just a wee bit.

Twenty-eight species. But my time and my territory were limited.

Wm. B. McIlwaine, Jr.
Alexandria, Virginia.



The Raven

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DR. J. J. MURRAY, EDITOR
LEXINGTON, VA.

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Nos. 3 & 4

ADDITIONS TO THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY LIST

By Charles O. Handley, Jr.

Dr. Smyth's last revision of his list of the birds of Montgomery County, Va., published in the Auk in 1927, brought his records up to April 14, 1925. He had recorded a total of 208 species, but of this number two must be dropped. The Carolina Junco, which was not identified but which most certainly occurs, and the Forster's Tern, for which he records two specimens from Abingdon, in Washington County. I am certain that both these birds occur and will in time be added to the list. The Junco breeds in all counties adjoining Montgomery, and there are at least four doubtful records for the tern from Blacksburg and vicinity.

As to new species we have added twenty-four and the English Sparrow, which Dr. Smyth mentions in his list but does not count, bringing the list up to a total of 231. Certain species such as the shorebirds and herons were very abundant in the spring and summer of 1937, due to the mud flats exposed by the draining of the larger of the two college lakes at that time, and have since dropped in numbers yearly.

For the past two years ducks and geese have been greatly on the increase, but at the same time it seems to me that the volume of the warbler migration has dropped considerably.

The list of new species with comments is as follows:

1. Double-crest Cormorant - An adult bird was seen several times on Oct. 7, 1939 by Wood, Shipley, Addy, and myself on New River near the mouth of Strublo's Creek.
2. American Egret - Since 1935 it has become a regular summer visitor, as many as five together at one time. June 23, 1928 - October 3, 1939.
3. Louisiana Heron - One bird in immature plumage was present at the college lake from July 24 - Aug. 12, 1936. This is the only record for this locality, and the only one, I believe, for the interior of Virginia.

4. Red-logged Black Duck - The red-leg and the common black are about equally divided here, the red-leg being more common on the river and the common black on the creek.
5. Red-breasted Merganser - Appearing first on April 11, 1936, the Red-breasted Merganser has increased yearly. Most common on New River, as many as nine in one flock. Spring - March 15, 1939 - April 11, 1936. Fall - Nov. 22, 1939.
6. American Rough-logged Hawk - Accidental winter visitor; one seen on January 3, 1938. Also other doubtful records for December and January.
7. Black Rail - Rare spring migrant, only one record; an adult male secured on May 27, 1939.
8. Golden Plover - A rare fall visitor, recorded three separate years. This is one of the strangest of the new records; why should a bird that is supposed to be travelling along the coast or far out at sea appear in the summit of the Alleghany mountains in three successive years at this season? Sept. 11, 1938 - Oct. 8, 1937.
9. Black-bellied Plover - One bird present Sept. 16-19, 1937. This, like the Golden Plover, seems very much out of place in this mountain land.
10. American Knot - One bird present on Struble's Creek, Sept. 7-16, 1937. Secured for Wildlife Research Unit collection. This, I believe, constitutes the only inland record of this species for Virginia.
11. White-rumped Sandpiper - Rare spring migrant, recorded four separate times, and never present more than three or four days at a time. June 2, (specimen secured) - June 6, 1937; June 4 & 5, 1939. This, like the Knot, is one of the few inland records of this species in the state. However, I believe that it is more common than it appears and is missed by many observers because of its late migration dates.
12. Herring Gull - Rare fall migrant, only four records, all for November; Nov. 20, 1936 (Specimen) - Nov. 26, 1939.
13. Rock Dove - Has become quite common and is a decided nuisance about the college buildings.
14. Fish Crow - Uncommon winter visitor; I am unable to give any exact arrival or departure dates as yet but they are from about the first of October to the last of March.
15. White-eyed Vireo - I have seen this species but twice; May 4, 1938 and Sept. 30, 1939. However, W. R. De Garmo tells me that it is rather common in one section near Blacksburg and that he has found one partially completed nest.
16. Mountain Vireo - Common summer resident, especially so on Pricos Mountain. I have not worked out arrival or departure dates as yet.
17. Philadelphia Vireo - Rare fall migrant; only five records. Sept. 18, 1936 - Oct. 1, 1936.

18. Nashville Warbler - Since 1936 this warbler has appeared as a fairly common migrant, both in the spring and fall. Several specimens have been collected.

19. Cairn's Warbler - Probably occurs regularly in migration but at the present it is recorded on the basis of a single specimen collected near the base of Price's mountain on October 8, 1938.

20. Bay-breasted Warbler - Rare spring and fall visitor; Sept. 17 & 24, 1939; May 14, 1939. I believe that Mr. Ralph M. Brown has several additional records for this species.

21. Western Palm Warbler - This species is a common fall migrant and rare winter and spring visitor, far outnumbering the Yellow Palm Warbler. April 26 - 29 1939; fall - Sept. 8, 1938 and 1939 - Oct. 29, 1937; winter - 4 records between dates Nov. 27, 1938, and December 25, 1935.

22. Northern Water-thrush - Fairly common migrant - May 12, 1937 - May 23, 1937; Fall - Aug. 19, 1937 - Sept. 5, 1936.

23. Mourning Warbler - Addy saw a beautiful full-plumaged male just west of Blacksburg, in a briar thicket Sept. 13, 1939.

24. Connecticut Warbler - Rare spring and fall migrant, probably more common than it appears to be. Of the five records that I have, three are for birds seen on the ground under over-hanging willows near the creek, in the same locality. May 21 & 26, 1937, full plumaged males; Oct. 2 & 3, 1938, Sept. 17, 1939, females or young.

Hypothetically listed are Baird's Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Forster's Tern, Northern Horned Lark, Eastern Robin, Gray-checked Thrush, and Carolina Junco. I am fairly certain that I have seen all these species on one or more occasions about Blacksburg, but due to their close resemblance to allied forms, specimens should be secured before adding them to the list.

Blacksburg, Virginia.....

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THE ANNUAL MEETING AT HARRISONBURG

The Kavanaugh Hotel, 131 N. Main Street, has been selected to be the headquarters for the Annual Meeting, May 10 and 11. All sessions and the annual dinner will be held here. Cost of dinner is \$1.00 per plate.

Parking space will be available to V.S.O. members and their guests on the lot in the rear of the hotel. The Kavanaugh Garage (also in rear of hotel) offers storage facilities at 50¢ per 24 hours.

The hour for the field trip on Saturday morning, into the George Washington National Forest, will be decided in the Friday afternoon session.

It is requested that all members who are planning to be present either for the annual dinner, or for the field trip, or for both, notify D. Ralph Hostetter, Eastern Memnonite School, not later than April 30, if possible. This information

will be useful in making the best arrangements.

Plans are now shaping up for an attractive and interesting program. The chief speaker at the Friday night session will be the Rev. John H. Grey, Jr., D. D., of Raleigh, North Carolina. Dr. Grey is one of the leading workers in the North Carolina Bird Club and Editor of The Chat, bulletin of that organization. His subject on Friday night will be "Birds of the Seashore", and will deal with studies of the birds on the adjoining coasts of Virginia and North Carolina. At the afternoon session Dr. Grey will bring greetings from the North Carolina Bird Club and tell us about the work of that aggressive organization. On Friday night, in addition to Dr. Grey's address, we are counting on some beautiful motion pictures. The Harrisonburg office of the George Washington National Forest is giving us the finest kind of cooperation in plans for the meeting. We have been promised an exhibit of their collection of bird skins and cases of mounted birds. Under the guidance of Mr. T. E. Clark, Wildlife Technician of the George Washington National Forest, a very interesting Field Trip has been planned for Saturday. This trip will take us to the Mossy Creek Dam, the Staunton Dam, and into the western section of the Forest.

It is hoped that many of our members will prepare papers for the meeting. Those who are planning to read papers are asked to send their titles to Dr. J. J. Murray, Lexington, Virginia.

D. Ralph Hostetter,
Harrisonburg, Virginia...

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NORTHERN SKUA OFF VIRGINIA COAST.

By Richard H. Pough

On February 5, 1940, while on route from Miami to New York by Clyde-Mallory steamer, I was off the Virginia Coast from about 2:30 P. M. to well after dark. All afternoon, from six to a dozen Herring Gulls followed the boat to retrieve scraps thrown overboard from the galley. At about 3:00 P. M., a dark bird, that at a distance did not look unlike a first year Herring Gull, was noticed flying along astern of the ship and off to one side some distance from the gulls who were following the wake quite closely.

Suddenly, as one of the gulls dropped to pick up a piece of food, the bird to the side came in with amazing speed and snatched the food away from the gull. This attracted my attention and I put my glasses on the bird. At once I saw the white bases of the primaries which formed a distinct white patch on the wing and know that I had a member of the Stercorariidae family. My bird, however, was heavier winged than the gulls and had a very short tail, quite unlike the slim pointed winged and rather long tailed Parasitic Jaeger, which I had seen earlier on the voyage. In a moment I realized that I had a Northern Skua, a bird that was an old friend, as far as I was concerned, as one had, some years back, followed a boat I was on for several days.

Besides the above, two species, Gannets and Dovekies, were seen all afternoon. It was interesting to speculate on how many Dovekies the ocean must have contained. We scared them up at the rate of 25 to 50 an hour, although they only flushed or could be seen a few hundred feet on either side of our course.

National Association of Audubon Societies,
New York City.

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INTERESTING OBSERVATIONS FROM SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA

By Charles O. Handley, Jr.

During the summer of 1939 I travelled rather extensively through the southwest portion of the State with C. E. Addy, and consequently had many opportunities to make interesting observations on the birds of this region. My travels took me to Wise County, Bristol, White Top and Mount Rogers, Patrick, Franklin, Floyd, Bland and Giles Counties besides Montgomery and Pulaski. Most of the rarer and more unusual records are substantiated by specimens which are now in the Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit collection at V. P. I.

On June 21 & 22, near Pound, Wise County, Cerulean, Kentucky, and Black-throated Green Warblers were observed to be very abundant and young Cowbirds being fed by Parula Warblers were quite numerous. Mr. F. M. Jones, who is well acquainted with this region, tells me that the Mountain Vireo nests fairly commonly here and that Swamp Sparrows are present throughout the summer in one locality. At High Knob on the 22nd, Veeries, Juncos, Chestnut-sided, and Canada Warblers were observed in some numbers. Mr. Addy saw a pair of Winter Wrens.

Two trips were made to White Top Mountain, one the latter part of June and the other about the middle of July. On both occasions the usual run of birds were seen - Kinglets, Siskins, Winter Wrens, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Juncos, Grosbeaks, Ravens, etc., and the only really rare record was that of a pair of Duck Hawks, seen by Russell De Garne and myself near the summit of the mountain on July 15. A trip to Mount Rogers July 16 and 17 proved to be very disappointing in that birds in general seemed to be rather scarce, though Juncos and Kinglets were abundant, and the mountain fairly rang with the cheery song of the Winter Wren. The only record of any real interest was that of several House Wrens seen on the 16th, at an elevation of 5,100 feet, but no specimens were secured so it still remains a mystery which form occurs on this high mountain.

A week's visit to Patrick County provided some interesting records for warblers, evidently migrants, though early on August 2, on Bull Mountain, just north of Stuart, a Cairns's Warbler and three Mountain Vireos were seen. On August 4, on Carter's Mountain a Magnolia Warbler was seen. On August 5, several Western Palm Warblers were noted in or near Stuart; and at the junction of the Dan River and Route 103, Blue Grosbeaks were found to be quite abundant, and several specimens were taken. I was rather surprised to see them here, especially in such numbers, as I have no records for Montgomery County, a little farther north and at about the same altitude.

I have never seen any data on Buffalo Mountain, the highest point in Floyd County, and so was interested in the results of a trip made there on August 16 and 17. Though the weather was bad due to a tropical disturbance a fair idea of the bird life was gained, and many forms typical of the Canadian Zone were quite common. About the bare rocky western face of the mountain, Juncos were abundant and were apparently being preyed on heavily by Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks which were always in evidence. Cairns's Warblers and Black-throated Green Warblers were also

quite common.

Other records are: a Cerulean Warbler collected on Wolf Creek Mountain, in Giles County, August 22, by Addy; a large flock of Pine Siskins seen in the Kinberling Creek Basin in Bland County, on August 24 & 25; Three male Scaups, near Sweet Chalybeate Springs, Allegheny County, on July 18; and Black Vultures at Buffalo Mountain in Floyd County, August 17; Pearisburg, Giles County, August 22; Dublin, Pulaski County, August 25.

Blacksburg, Virginia...

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WINTER NOTES FROM AMELIA

By John B. Lewis

At Amelia the extreme cold and deep snow that have prevailed have had less effect on the bird population than might have been expected. None of the wanderers from the far north that some times appear under such conditions have been recorded. This may have been due in part at least, to the fact that the twenty inch snow in our section made walking so difficult and laborious that no great territory could be covered.

Purple Finches were present in about the usual numbers through November and December, but have not been seen since. Myrtle Warblers have been scarce. One, probably the same individual, was seen almost daily in the maple trees about the hotel in Amelia village, from January 10, to February 4, when it disappeared. Dr. G. C. Eggleston, a close and accurate observer whose home, "Wimbeldon", is in the south edge of the village, had a Brown Thrasher at his feeding station and in the shrubbery near it from about January 24, to February 10, when it also disappeared. This is unusual, as the few previous winter records have occurred in unusually mild winter. A Phoebe that usually spends the winter in and near a concrete highway bridge on Nibb's Creek was seen up to January 8, but not since then. Robins were not noted until February 5, but since then have been present in small numbers. Mourning Doves have been scarce since the beginning of the extreme cold weather. For the first time I failed to get them on my Christmas bird census. A small flock of Tree Sparrows were seen in a thicket along a branch near our home for a few days beginning February 8. They are unusual with us. Fox Sparrows were seen occasionally through December, but none have been seen since.

Just after sunrise on the morning of January 4, I found a coot, still warm, lying in the highway near Nibb's Creek. It had either struck the electric wires or been hit by an automobile, as the neck was broken. It was a male in thin condition with not a sign of fat on it. Oddly enough, the first coot I ever saw killed itself by flying against telegraph wires along the railroad near Eubank, Kentucky, October 3, 1885.

Amelia Courthouse, Virginia.

SOME BLACK VULTURE RECORDS

While the Black Vulture seems now to be at least a fairly common breeder in all parts of Virginia, except on the highest mountain ranges and plateaus, it seems worth while to put on record occurrences in as many localities in northern and western Virginia as possible. The following notes were made on recent trips in the State:

Sperryville, Rappahannock County, one seen on December 26, 1939.

Anisville, Rappahannock County, just west of the Culpepper County line, three seen on December 26, 1939.

Hollins College, Roanoke County, five, February 16, 1940.

Rocky Mount, Franklin County, two, February 16, 1940.

Staunton, Augusta County, two seen over Betsy Bell Mountain, April 3, 1940.

J. J. Murray,
Lexington, Virginia.

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The Raven

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Nox. 5 & 6

Tenth Annual Meeting of the

V. S. O.

Harrisonburg, Virginia
May 10 & 11, 1940

The Tenth Annual Meeting of the Virginia Society of Ornithology was held at Harrisonburg, Virginia, on Friday and Saturday, May 10 and 11th, 1940. Advance preparations had been handled by Dr. D. Ralph Hostetter in a most efficient manner. He and Mrs. Hostetter were most cordial hosts to the group. For the success of the meeting and especially of the Saturday Field Trip the Society owes much to Mr. T. E. Clark, Wild Life Technician, and to his fellow-workers of the George Washington National Forest headquarters at Harrisonburg.

The meeting opened at the Kavanaugh Hotel at two o'clock on Friday afternoon with President M. G. Lewis in the chair. After a welcome from Dr. Hostetter and a response from President Lewis, Mr. T. E. Clark spoke on the "Educational work of the United States Forest Service." He had placed on display during the meeting the collection of bird skins in glass tubes which has been used so effectively in the public schools and recreation areas all over the George Washington Forest. He also had the first units of a new series of glass-fronted cases of mounted birds which is now in process of preparation. These cases are provided with push buttons which ring an electric bell when correct identification of one of the mounted birds has been made. Both the skins and the mounted birds are the work of Mr. William Williams, who was present at the meeting. Mr. Clark also distributed samples of printed material being used in his nature education work. In the absence of Mrs. J. Frank Key, Dr. J. J. Murray made a report of the work which she is doing for the V. S. O. in organizing Junior Audubon Clubs in the State. Mrs. A. C. Reed gave a demonstration of a nature lecture to children with the use of the Pictograph, a machine which reflects pictures to a screen.

Dr. John H. Grey, Jr., of Raleigh, North Carolina, spoke on "The Work of the North Carolina Bird Club", telling of the remarkable growth in membership achieved by that organization and also some of the bird-study projects undertaken. In "A Topographic Survey of Virginia Ornithology", Dr. J. J. Murray pictured on a

map of the State three types of areas in Virginia: first, areas in which the bird life has been rather thoroughly studied and fully reported; second, areas which have been either covered or reported only in part; and, finally, areas which, because they have been neglected or because their location is of special importance, should have attention as soon as possible. Mr. M. G. Lewis spoke all too briefly on "The Value of Bird Study as a Hobby", pointing out the appeal of bird study to teachers, students, photographers, and nature lovers in general. Dr. William B. McIlwaine Jr., in a paper, "In Addition to Our Virginia List", dealt with a record for the Evening Grosbeak near Alexandria.

One of the most interesting and original papers on the program was a joint production of Mr. John Mahan and Prof. Ruskin S. Freor of Lynchburg College, presented by Mr. Mahan and illustrated with slides. Entitled "Birds and the Wind", it was an endeavor covering several migration seasons at Lynchburg to correlate wind movements and bird migration, Prof. Freor furnishing the ornithological and Mr. Mahan the meteorological data. Prof. Charles O. Handley, of the Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit at V. P. I., in a talk, "Observations on the Chimney Swift", illustrated with slides, showed some results of his extensive work in banding Swifts at Thomasville, Georgia, and other places. In the business session which closed the afternoon program the V. S. O. went on record as endorsing the proposed bill to afford protection to the Bald Eagle.

Following the business session was a meeting of the Executive Committee. The Treasurer's Report, which had been approved by the Auditing Committee, was presented and accepted. It is published elsewhere in this issue. The Editor of The Raven was requested to prepare an index of the first ten volumes of The Raven and to publish it as one of the 1940 issues. Most of the time of the meeting was spent in a discussion of ways of increasing the membership of the V. S. O. The President was directed to appoint a Membership Committee, and the committee thus appointed was authorized to draw on the Treasurer for necessary funds. A motion was passed providing for a change in the section of the constitution dealing with membership so as to provide hereafter for the following four classes of members: Honorary Members, to be elected at the discretion of the Society and to be exempt from dues; Sustaining Members, with annual dues of \$2.50; Members, with annual dues of \$1.00; and Junior Members, consisting of young people in high school or college, with dues of 50¢; all classes to receive The Raven and to be entitled to all privileges of the Society; this ruling to become effective at once for new members, and on January 1, 1941, for old members. The Executive Committee, however, urges for the good of the order that all present active members become Sustaining Members and continue to pay \$2.50 annually.

The Annual Dinner at the Kavanaugh Hotel was attended by about fifty members and guests. At the close of the dinner the following officers were elected for the coming year: President, A. O. English, 308 Westover Avenue, Roanoke; Vice-President, Dr. William B. McIlwaine, Jr., 208 S. St. Asaph Street, Alexandria; Secretary, Dr. Florence S. Hague, Sweet Briar; Treasurer, T. L. Engleby, 1002 Patterson Avenue, Roanoke.

At the evening session, which was attended by one hundred or more members and guests, the chief address was made by Dr. John H. Grey, guest speaker from the North Carolina Bird Club. Dr. Grey, who started out with the V. S. O., and who on his removal to North Carolina was one of the organizers of the North Carolina group, is the minister of the Presbyterian Church serving the students of State College at

Raleigh, and is also the editor of The Chat. His theme, "Birds of the Seashore", dealt with the Virginia-North Carolina coast region, with which he is thoroughly familiar. The audience was delighted with his word pictures of coastal bird life and with his own enthusiastic appreciation of the opportunities for bird study near at hand, and was interested in his suggestions for future work. He discussed the South Atlantic Coast as a flyway for migrating waterfowl; told of some of the most attractive birds and of some of the most interesting spots of this region; and outlined some of the problems of bird study on our coast which call for the cooperative work of members of the two state organizations. The meeting closed with the showing of some beautiful colored moving pictures of ducks, geese and swans taken at Back Bay by Mr. Harry Bailey, Manager of the Back Bay Migratory Wild Fowl Refuge.

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Tenth Annual V. S. O. Field Trip

By J. J. Murray

On Saturday morning, May 11, fifty or more members of the V. S. O. set out from the Kavanaugh Hotel in Harrisonburg under the guidance of Mr. T. E. Clark for the annual Field Trip. The day was perfect, warm, no wind, bright and clear. The time was the height of the spring migration. The view presented that contrast of rich and gently-rolling farm land close at hand with the distant blue line of rugged mountains that makes the incomparable scenery of the Valley of Virginia. The participants were enthusiastic. Hopes were high for the biggest and best field trip in the ten years of V. S. O. history. And before the day was over the hopes were realized.

We had hardly left the city limits to swing along the narrow, crooked country roads before the entries began to pile up in notebooks, - Kingbird and Meadowlark, Mockingbird and Chipping Sparrow, Yellow Warbler and Indigo Bunting, and other familiar birds of field and hedgerow. First stop was made at Mossy Creek Dam. Here after a spate of picture taking the crowd separated into several smaller groups, one group to take the cars along the western side of the lake to the meeting place at Mossy Creek Church, the other groups to travel slowly along the eastern shore, leaving spaces between the groups so that startled birds might have a chance to recover from the enthusiasm of eager bird watchers. Almost at once a Cardinal was flushed from her eggs in a cedar bush. The trees on the high hillside to the left were alive with a big wave of migrating warblers, Black and White, Parula, Magnolia, Black-throated Green, Chestnut-sided, Black-poll, Canada, and others. Other warblers were singing in the thickets at the water's edge. Some twenty kinds of warblers were seen here. About the lake there was always something to attract attention - now the Black-crowned Night Heron which obligingly flew back and forth at intervals; or a sandpiper or Yellow-legs in the shallows; or a small flock of ducks that moved slowly ahead of us, Mallard and Black and Wood Ducks and Scaups and Red-breasted Mergansers, and Blue-winged Teals. In the marsh at the south end an American Bittern was flushed; and one group saw a Virginia Rail. Still later in the day Mr. Jopson and some of the Bridgewater students saw two Black Terns flying over the lake. In a cedar tree near the church a White-crowned Sparrow was singing.

Next step was the Staunton City Reservoir, a beautiful lake high in the mountains but rather barren of bird life. A few adventurers made the round of the lake, plowing through the bear oak bushes, exchanging scares with a rattlesnake, and coming back looking like Rogers' Rangers. Below the Dam a pair of Blackburnian Warblers were working at a nest in a pine tree. Farther down the woods along the creek added other species to the list. From an open glade some of us saw a Broad-winged Hawk wheeling high against the blue.

By the time we had worked our way down to CCC Camp No. 3, all of us were ready for the lunch which the Forest Service people had arranged for us. And such a lunch! - piles of sandwiches, and ham, and potato salad, and tomatoes, and mugs of coffee, and all in such abundance that not even the Rogers' Rangers section could eat their way through it all. While the hungrier members were quieting their last yearnings Miss Edna Becker, official census taker, checked the species that were called out to her, to find that we already had 105 for the morning's work, with an afternoon yet before us.

After lunch several carloads had to turn homeward. Most of the crowd with new enthusiasm headed over the Forest Service roads for the high country. Our goal was the fire tower, standing almost at 4,500 feet on Reddish Knob on the Virginia-West Virginia line. The road, red from the rocks that give the mountain its name, is a fine piece of engineering, with each rising turn bringing wider vistas of high mountains. We stopped near the top in a big opening. Here where the tiny leaves showed that spring had only begun at such altitudes we added other species characteristic of the high country, Carolina Junco and Cairns' Warbler. Here the Ruffed Grouse was flushed; and here a Raven flew overhead calling hoarsely. As from the fire tower we watched the changing view of the mountains of two states some of the boys came rushing up the ladder to announce that they had seen an eagle. Later, on the way down, others of us saw it, identified it as a not yet fully mature Golden Eagle, and then watched a Duck Hawk drive it out of sight.

After the groups separated still other birds were seen, and the records later sent in to the editor. There were some strange gaps in our list, since no Pied-billed Grebes, Black Vultures, Cuckoos, or Cedar Waxwings were seen. The total list for the day reached 125 species, which is far and away the longest and most interesting list ever compiled on a V. S. O. Field Trip. The list of species seen follows: Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, American Bittern, Mallard, Black Duck, Baldpate, Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, (Lesser?) Scaup, Red-breasted Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, Red-shouldered, and Broad-winged Hawks, Golden Eagle, Duck and Sparrow Hawks, Ruffed Grouse, Bobwhite, Virginia Rail, Killdeer, Woodcock, Wilson's Snipe, Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers, Lesser Yellow-legs, Black Tern, Mourning Dove, Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Hummingbird, Kingfisher, Flicker, Pileated and Red-headed Woodpeckers, Sapsucker, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, Kingbird, Crested Flycatcher, Phoebe, Acadian Flycatcher, Wood Pewee, Prairie Horned Lark, Rough-winged, Barn and Cliff Swallows, Blue Jay, Raven, Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatches, House, Winter, Bowick's, Carolina and Long-billed Marsh Wrens, Mockingbird, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Wood and Olive-backed Thrushes, Veery, Bluebird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Migrant Shrike, Starling, Yellow-throated, Mountain and Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos, Black & White, Worm-eating, Parula, Yellow, Magnolia, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Cairns' (collected by Williams), Myrtle, Black-throated Green, Cerulean, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted, Black-poll, Pine and Prairie Warblers, Ovenbird, Northern and Louisiana Water-thrushes,

Maryland Yellow-throat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Hooded, Wilson's and Canada Warblers, Redstart, English Sparrow, Bobolink, Meadowlark, Red-wing, Orchard and Baltimore Orioles, Purple Grackle, Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Godfinch, Towhee, Grasshopper and Vesper Sparrows, Carolina Junco, Chipping, Field, White-crowned, White-throated, Swamp and Song Sparrows.

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TREASURER'S REPORT - 1939

Statement of Treasurer, covering receipts and disbursements from January 1, 1939 to December 31, 1939.

December 31, 1938 - Balance on hand as per last report.....\$142.82.

Receipts account of memberships

1	Associate Membership for 1939.....	\$ 1.00
1	" " " 1938.....	1.50
46	" " " 1939.....@.\$1.50.....	69.00
17	Active " " 1939.....@.\$2.50.....	42.50
1	Associate " " 1940.....@.\$1.50.....	1.50

Total Receipts for 1939 115.50

Total including old balance \$258.32

DISBURSEMENTS

Voucher No. 40	- Ruskin S. Freer	
	Oct.-Nov.-Dec. Raven.....	\$24.93
" " 41	- A. O. English	
	Postage for mailing out statements.....	3.48
" " 42	- Nat'l. Ass'n. of Audubon Societies	
	Rental motion picture films.....	2.50
" " 43	- Caldwell-Sites Company	
	500 Catalogue envelopes.....	2.06
" " 44	- Mrs. A. C. Reed	
	Express on picture films \$.96	
	and Annual Dinner for Bailey \$1.00.....	1.96
" " 45	- M. G. Lewis	
	January Raven \$3.06	
	Feb-March Raven 3.18	
	Gen'l Correspondence 3.00.....	9.24
" " 46	- Mrs. J. Frank Key	
	Mimeographing letters.....	5.00
" " 47	- Caldwell-Sites	
	Stencils.....	5.95
" " 48	- Salem Publishing Company	
	Cut of Raven \$2.50	
	Raven Front 8.00	
	Paper & envelopes 19.50.....	30.00

(over)

Voucher No. 49 - Virginia Wildlife Federation		
Membership 7/1/39 to 7/1/40.....	\$	2.50
" " 50 - M. G. Lewis		
Mailing April-May Raven	\$3.18	
" June-July "	3.18	
" Sample copies "	.21	
" Aug-Sept. "	2.68	
" Oct.-Nov. "	2.34	
" December "	2.34	
General Correspondence	3.00.....	16.93
" " 51 - Nat'l Association Audubon Societies		
Sustaining membership through Oct. 1940.....		10.00
" " 52 - Caldwell-Sites Company		
Stencils-paper-envelopes.....		8.33
Total amount of disbursements -		\$122.88
Balance on hand December 31, 1939 per bank statement.....		<u>135.44</u>
Total		\$258.32

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MEMBERS OF THE V. S. O.

June 1, 1940

Miss Edna Becker	Hollins Collogo, Hollins, Va.
Ralph M. Brown	V. P. I., Blacksburg, Va.
Mrs. C. L. Burgess	1900 Memorial Ave. Lynchburg, Va.
J. W. Bailey	Box 107
Mrs. C. A. Barefield	U. of Richmond, Richmond, Va.
Mrs. Arthur Bowen	2300 E. Shore Drive, Ocean
Miss Ada Ball	View, Va.
	Box 1428, University, Va.
	4508 Forest Hill Avenue,
	Richmond, Va.
Miss Martha Clark	1403 Filmore St., Lynchburg, Va.
Carry Nature Sanctuary	Sweet Briar, Virginia
Dr. Wm. P. Caton	Rt. 1, Alexandria, Va.
John B. Calhoun	Dept. of Zoology, Northwestern
	University, Evanston, Ill.
Mrs. Marion Charlton	Rt. 1, Portsmouth, Virginia
Mr. Tallott E. Clark	C/o U. S. Forest Service,
	Harrisonburg, Va.
Robert P. Carroll	52 Washington St. Lexington
Rev. F. H. Craighill	Rocky Mount, N. C.
Cecil F. De La Barre	Biology Dept. V. P. I.,
	Blacksburg, Virginia.
Mrs. Colgate W. Dardon, Jr.	Algonquin Park, Norfolk, Va.
Miss Bertha Daniel	Naruna, Virginia
Mrs. Mary D. Disc	5 Liberty St., Charleston, S.C.

- W. R. De Garmo
W. M. Davidson
Box 131 Stuarts Draft, Va.
Insecticide Laboratory, Silver Springs, Md.
- Ralph Ellis
T. L. Engleby
James Eike
A. O. English
Miss Jane Eliason-
2420 Ridge Road, Berkley, Calif.
1002 Patterson Ave., Roanoke, Va.
Box 4, Woodbridge, Virginia
308 Westover Avenue, Roanoke, Va.
255 Campbell Street, Harrisonburg, Va.
- J. Bowie Ferneyhough
Ruskin S. Freor
Box 1458, Richmond, Va.
"Arden", Rt. 2, Lynchburg, Va.
- Rev. John H. Grey, Jr.
Robert M. Griswold
George Seth Guion
Jos. E. Gould
State College Station, Raleigh, N. C.
315 Shady Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa.
1701 American Bank Building, New Orleans, La.
1920 Springfield, Ave., Norfolk, Va.
- Miss Lena B. Henderson
Dr. Florence S. Hague
D. Ralph Hestotter
C. O. Handley, Jr.
C. O. Handley
J. Southgate Hoyt
Miss Eleanor E. Herrick
Miss Louise Howerton
Miss Evelyn D. Hill
Miss Tintie Heatwold
R. M. W. C., Lynchburg, Va.
Sweet Briar College, Sweet Briar, Va.
Eastern Mononite School, Harrisonburg, Va.
Blacksburg, Virginia
Blacksburg, Virginia - V. P. I.
5 Lewis Street, Lexington, Va.
935 Smith Lane, Woodmore, Long Island, N. Y.
255 Campbell Street, Harrisonburg, Va.
Harrisonburg, Va.
Dayton, Virginia
- Mrs. J. F. B. Jurgens
Mrs. A. O. James
Mrs. J. R. Keysor
Miss Lucy P. Kearns
Mrs. J. Frank Key
Box 92, Ben Lir, Virginia
Chatham, Virginia.
Box 432 Roanoke, Virginia
"Greencove", Lynnhaven, Virginia
Buona Vista, Virginia
- Jno. B. Lewis
M. G. Lewis
Miss Mary Leigh
Mrs. Laura H. Lippitt
Kenneth Lawless
Anelia Court House, Virginia.
Box 549, Salem, Va.
415 Fairfax Ave., Norfolk, Va.
Dinwiddie, Virginia
1911 - 12th Street, Lynchburg, Va.
- The Library
Dr. J. J. Murrey
Geo. C. Mason
John Mahan
Robert F. Mason
Medical College of Virginia, Richmond, Va.
6 White Street, Lexington, Va.
136 Greenbrier Ave., Hampton, Va.
512 Clay Street, Lynchburg, Va.
2415 California Street, Washington, D. C.
- McGill University Library
Miss Sallie R. McLain
Billy McIntosh
Dr. Wm. B. McIlwaine, Jr.
Montreal Canada.
1512 Franklin Road, Roanoke, Virginia
414 Oakridge Blvd., Lynchburg, Va.
208 S. St. Asaph Street, Alexandria, Va.
- Dr. Harry C. Oberholser
2805 - 18th Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

Edward A. Proble	3027 Newark Street, Washington, D. C.
Mrs. Tracy A. Ragsdale	De Witt, Virginia
J. H. Riley	Falls Church, Virginia
Mrs. A. C. Reed	1519 Morris Ave., Norfolk, Va.
Miss Sally C. Ryan	Virginia Beach, Virginia
Miss Elizabeth H. Ryland	100 W. Franklin St., Richmond, Va.
Mrs. Robert M. Reese	517 Cameron Street, Alexandria, Va.
Cary Suter	Ft. Defiance, Va.
Katy Friel Sanders	The Cavalier Book Shop, Salem, Va.
Mrs. F. W. Shaw	2417 Rosewood Ave., Richmond, Va.
Prof. James R. Snyder	Gen'l Assembly Training School, 3400 Brook Road, Richmond, Va.
Kingsley Stevens	3440 Fort Avenue, Lynchburg, Va.
Miss Sara Snook	2405 Rosewood Ave., Richmond, Va.
Rev. James Sprunt	3917 Fort Ave., Lynchburg, Va.
Mrs. Herbert D. Thompson	Algonquin Park, Norfolk, Va.
O. B. Taylor	2606 The Plaza, Richmond, Va.
Mrs. Thomas P. Thompson	"Miramar", Lockhaven, Norfolk, Va.
Dr. Lillian C. Thompson	Mary Baldwin College, Staunton, Va.
Mrs. P. P. Vinson	Ridgeway Road, Richmond, Va.
Miss Evelyn Watkins	276 Franklin Street, Harrisonburg, Va.
Dr. A. Wetmore	U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.
Mrs. Jas. W. Wiltshire, Jr.	R. M. W. C. Lynchburg, Va.

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A Topographic Survey of Virginia Ornithology

By J. J. Murray

On ancient maps the territory around the Mediterranean Sea was well marked; farther out the place names were few; and finally as the edges of the maps were reached there were just two words, terra incognita. As men have grown bolder and more skilful and as their mechanical aids have been perfected these unknown spots on the map of the world have grown fewer and smaller until today there are few blank spaces of any great size. On the ornithological map of Virginia there are still too many unknown or little known areas. One great object of the Virginia Society of Ornithology is to cut down both the number and the size of these areas. A good deal has been done. The condition of our ornithological map is not nearly so bad as it was ten years ago when the Society was organized. The purpose of this paper is to show what still remains to be done.

Three types of areas may be discussed:

1. Areas Rather Well Covered and Fully Reported on. By this we mean an area from which we have an annotated list in print or mimeographed, with dates and details, showing the status of all species throughout the year, and based on a minimum of five years of continuous, steady field work. This does not for a minute imply that we know all about the distribution of the birds of any of these areas.

It just means a lot of work done and made available to others. The availability is quite as important as the fact that the work has been done. The following are such areas, listed across the State from west to east:

- (1) Montgomery County. In this county Dr. Ellison A. Snyth, Jr., worked for thirty-five years and published two fine papers in *The Auk* (October, 1912 and January, 1937): Ralph H. Brown has worked for fifteen years; and in recent years Prof. Charles O. Handley, C. O. Handley, Jr., and others have added still further information, some of which has been published in *The Raven* (January, 1937 and March-April, 1940).
- (2) Rockbridge County. Here the present writer has gathered data for fifteen years and has published detailed papers on the water birds in *The Wilson Bulletin* (March, 1935, and March, 1937) and on the land birds in *The Oologist* (March, 1936, and February, 1937), as well as regular notes in *The Raven*.
- (3) Washington, D. C., Region. This is one of the most carefully worked areas in the world, where intense field work has been done for seventy-five years by some of the best ornithologists of America. The territory covers a circle of twenty miles radius around the Capitol Building, about one-third of which is in Virginia. Many earlier publications are summed up in Miss May T. Cook's book, "Birds of the Washington, D. C., Region", published by the Biological Society of Washington, 1929.
- (4) Lynchburg Region. This area, which includes the counties of Campbell, Amherst, and Bedford, has been worked by Professor Ruskin S. Freer for fifteen years. His work has been published as a Bulletin of Lynchburg College, January, 1939, under the title "Birds of Lynchburg, Virginia, and Vicinity". See also *The Raven*, 1938, February-March, July, November-December.
- (5) Amelia County. The only paper on Virginia birds to be published in Europe, so far as I know, was a paper, "On Birds Observed in Amelia County, Virginia", (Scientific proceedings of the Royal Dublin Society, Ireland, read before the Society in 1881), by Percy E. Freke, and Irish naturalist who spent several years in Amelia County. More to the point, however, is the paper, "Annotated List of Birds Observed in Amelia and Brunswick Counties", by John B. Lewis, *The Raven*, September, 1938. The Amelia section of this paper represents eight years of thorough and careful work and gives an adequate picture of the bird life of the county.
- (6) Brunswick County. In the Brunswick sections of the paper just mentioned Mr. Lewis gives us the same full information for this county, based on seventeen years of observation.

2. Areas Either Covered or Reported only in Part. By this we mean either a place that has been only partially worked, that is, by a study of the breeding birds alone, or by scattered visits; or a place that may be well known to some bird student but from which no adequate records are available for other workers.

- (1). Bristol Region. Mr. F. M. Jones has been working in this part of the State for thirty-five years. We have a list of the birds as a part of "A Consolidated List", in *The Raven*, February, 1931, but the annotations are very brief.

(2) White Top & Mt. Rogers. For this region the breeding birds have been fairly well covered. Dr. William C. Rives published a paper, "Notes on the Birds of White Top Mountain, Virginia", in *The Auk*, January 1889; and the writer has had several papers on the breeding birds of the two mountains in *The Raven* (September-October, 1935; May-June, 1936; July-August, 1937).

(3) Mountain Lake, Giles County. Here too the breeding birds have been very well listed. Dr. Rives published a paper in *The Auk*, January, 1889, "Notes on the Birds of the Salt Pond Mountain, Virginia"; and Professors R. P. Carroll, and D. Ralph Hostetter had a paper in *The Raven* (October-November, 1933).

(4) Middle Mountain, Highland County. Here again a list of the breeding birds is available. Professor Maurice Brooks has published one and the writer several papers in *The Raven* (November-December, 1935; August, 1938; November-December, 1938; June-July, 1939).

(5) Charlottesville. In the paper, "A Consolidated List", in *The Raven* February, 1931, is included a partial list from Charlottesville.

(6) Nelson County. In the files of the United States Biological Survey there are migration records from Mr. H. M. Micklem for fifty years.

(7) Chatham, Pittsylvania County. Miss Eleanor E. Horrick in a paper, "Birds of Chatham, Virginia", in *The Raven* (September-October, 1937), published a list of 106 species based on her work over three years, with the exception of the mid-summer period.

(8) King William County. In the Biological Survey files there are migration records from Miss Elizabeth H. Ryland for the years, 1912-1916. A paper, "William Palmer on the Summer Birds of Hanover and King William Counties", in *The Raven* (February-March, 1935) gives some further information.

(9) Ashland, Hanover County. "A List of Birds Observed at Ashland, Virginia", in *The Auk*, April, 1910 by Dr. G. C. Embury, gives a list of 114 species observed during one year. The William Palmer Paper mentioned above adds some information.

(10) Richmond-Petersburg Area. We have two accounts from this area: a paper on the Camp Lee section, near Petersburg, by A. L. Nelson and Ray Greenfield, *The Raven* (November-December, 1936); and one on the Swift Creek Recreational Area, near Richmond, by W. R. De Garmo, *The Raven*, April-May, 1938.

(11) Cobb's Island. The breeding birds have been fully covered in many publications.

(12) Tidewater Virginia in general. The breeding birds have been fully treated in H. H. Bailey's Book, "The Birds of Virginia".

3. Areas Needing Special Attention. There are certain areas which, either because they have been neglected entirely or because their location is of some special importance should have attention as soon as possible.

(1) The Extreme Southwest Corner of the State. There is great need for someone to make public a thorough report on the birds of Lee, Wise and Scott

Counties. Because of the fact that we have here a large gap in our available knowledge and because of the possibility of a definite western influence in its bird life, this study should be made soon.

(2) Tazewell and Buchanan Counties. Because of its extensive high and rough mountain country we should know more about this section. The writer is preparing a report for a later issue on the breeding birds of Burke's Garden, in Tazewell County.

(3) The Patrick-Franklin-Henry County Region. Because of its southern position and its low and broken type of mountain country, we should have a report on this section.

(4) Frederick County. A northern, border county from which we have had nothing during the publication of The Raven.

(5) The Northern Neck. A large area from which we have had no reports.

(6) The Dismal Swamp. While, as with all the Tidewater country, we have had reports on the breeding birds, we need winter notes on this section.

(7) Eastern Shore. While reports on breeding water birds of the Eastern are multitudinous, we badly need reports on the breeding land birds, and also migration and winter data.

(8) The Norfolk Area. While H. H. Bailey furnishes data on the breeding birds, and while we have many scattered notes, there is great need for some one to gather together all available data and to fill in the gaps. Next to a report from the extreme southwestern corner of the State, a report of this comprehensive kind from Norfolk is our greatest need in distributional work in Virginia.

Lexington, Virginia.

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AN ADDITION TO OUR VIRGINIA LIST-

The Evening Grosbeak

By William B. McIlwaine, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard M. Graham are cultured, educated citizens of Alexandria, Va. Mr. Graham was reared in a very small town in Central Mississippi, later engaged in newspaper work in the North, and is now with the Bureau of the Census in Washington. Mrs. Graham is prominent in social and club work in the community. Their young son, Carter, has a passion for birds, and from early days has been remarkable for his knowledge and his powers of identification. Naturally the mother gives particular attention to this subject because of her son's interest. This much has been said to establish the credibility of the witnesses.

Mrs. Graham is not sure of the exact date, but thinks it was during the last week of March (1940) that her husband called her to come to the door and see a strange bird. It was sitting in a small tree in their yard in the Rosemont section of Alexandria. There it was in plain view, with its back to them. Mrs.

Graham says, "It was the size of a Blue Jay, or possibly a little larger", with conspicuous yellow narrowing toward the tail, and flanked on either side by white. The rest, as she saw it, seemed dark. But that which attracted them particularly was the bird's huge bill. Mr. Graham thought of the Carolina Parakeet; but then the color was wrong, and the bill, for that matter was wrong too. This bill came to a point with no crook. And it was, as Mrs. Graham described it, "bright yellow".

They watched the bird, studying it carefully, for about fifteen minutes. Then they came in, and locked it up in the Geographic Society's "Book of Birds". They say the identification was immediate and absolute. The bird was the Evening Grosbeak.

Making all due allowance for the inaccuracies of an untrained describer, as in size given, and in the color of the bill, - yet, it is apparent to everyone that what Mr. and Mrs. Graham saw is just what they say they saw, the Evening Grosbeak.

This species was added to the Washington (D. C.) List in 1922, when it was seen in flocks up to a dozen birds throughout the month of April, and until May 12. While I have no doubt it has negotiated successfully before this the Potomac River, yet I find no record for it in Virginia. Therefore I submit this claim for addition to the List of Birds of Virginia of the Evening Grosbeak.

Alexandria, Virginia.

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Bird Notes From Norfolk

By Mrs. A. C. Reed

During the last two weeks of January and the first week of February, Mr. Harry Bailey figured that at least 1000 ducks had died from oil pollution between Virginia Beach and the Biological Survey Refuge. On Feb. 4, we counted 118 birds affected. Of these there were: Horned Grebes, 60; Old-squaws, 10; White-winged Scoters, 26; Surf Scoters, 12; American Scoters, 7; Common Loons, 2; and 1 Red-breasted Merganser. Previously, Mr. Bailey said, loons and scoters had been the chief victims. It was a gloomy sight to see these birds of wonderful soft plumage condemned to slow death. Birds were seen on the beach in every stage of affliction. Some, too weak to move and indifferent to their fate, were run over by automobiles; others were able to stagger only a few feet; some could reach the sea, but being unable to dive, were rolled over in the surf; others were dying and kicking in agony. Mrs. Barefield took one Old-squaw, one Surf Scoter, and one Horned Grebe home with her. These she washed with soap and water and kept over night. When released the next day, the Scoter and Old-squaw seemed to be all right, as they dived continuously for food and stayed under quite a little while. The Grebe she does not believe survived. Mr. Thomas Stewart picked up about 30 dead birds from the beach. Two weeks later as I walked along the shore, I saw windrows of feathers from the disintegrated bodies, and a week later, fine lines of feathers could still be seen. Only one who has witnessed the sufferings of birds afflicted by oil can appreciate the hopelessness and needlessness of this type of destruction.

Stumpy Lake this winter contained a fine assortment of ducks. During the

freeze, 2000 Pintails came down there, and these were fed by the wardens. On Feb. 29, I saw there besides Pintails, 500 Ring-necked Ducks, 19 Green-winged Teal, 8 American Mergansers, 3 Hooded Mergansers, Red-breasted Mergansers, 7 Canvas-backs, Baldpates, and Coots.

Along the coast from Cape Henry to Virginia Beach, I did not see the large concentrations of scoters and Red-breasted Mergansers which I observed there last winter. However, Buffle-heads, Golden-eyes, Old-squaws, and all three scoters were present in good numbers. Broad Bay proved a fine place this winter from which to see sea-ducks. Canvas-backs were present in small numbers through February to March 10; 22 on February 1. During March I saw 3 Redheads. On April 22, 7 Gadwall were present at Little Creek Lake, and on April 28, there was one European Widgeon among 14 Baldpates and 6 Hooded Mergansers at Lynnhaven. During March and April there were good numbers of Blue-winged Teal at Stumpy Lake. Of course one expects to see great numbers of waterfowl at Back Bay, but I think more of the rarer species of ducks could be seen this winter about Norfolk than I have noted before.

Quite a few Great Blue Herons were reported found dead during January, and we saw 4 or 5 of these. On March 3, we found one Little Blue Heron dead.

Pipits were here through January to March 3, the largest count being 400 January 8. Mr. Bailey had 100 snow buntings on the Refuge, February 9. Among the Horned Larks on the Shore Drive and at Back Bay, I did not observe any Lapland Longspurs. On March 17, I saw my first Prairie Horned Lark at Kempsville among migrating Robins. The Winter Wren was at Stumpy Lake from February 29, to March 17. Miss Gifford reports a male Purple Finch March 3, another March 25, and two on April 7.

April 11, brought a fine migration of Gannets at Dan's Neck. I counted 600, looking as far out to sea as I could with my glasses. They were migrating steadily north, diving fairly well to feed, but chiefly flying in that distinctive, undulating manner seen during migration. That is, they would fly at a level considerably above the water, then glide down and follow the troughs of the waves, then ascend again. April 12, 4 Brown Pelicans, B. S. Refuge, Bailey.

The first good wave of land birds came April 28. Arrivals were: Hooded, Kentucky, and Prothonotary Warblers, Louisiana Water-thrush, Ovenbirds, Summer Tanager and Wood Thrush. On April 4, I had seen 3 Yellow-throated Warblers in Seashore State Park, but I do not believe they stayed there. I do not find this warbler common about Norfolk. Now that I am going more into woods other than Seashore State Park, I believe Ovenbirds are fairly common here during migration, and possibly nest here. In Seashore State Park they are uncommon. This shows how a number of years of observation in different places is necessary before one can really form an estimate of the abundance, or otherwise, of a species in a given area.

Following the wave of land birds, on April 30, came a wave of shore birds. These included 8 Hudsonian Curlews, Piping Plovers, Black-bellied Plovers, Dowitchers, Greater Yellow-legs, Lesser Yellow-legs, Semipalmated Sandpipers, Redbacked Sandpipers, Royal and Caspian Terns. - Likewise the Florida Gallinule and Sora Rail, 8. Of course it always sounds as though there were more Sora Rails than there really are, for they can run so fast through the marsh uttering their peculiar cry. However, there were surely quite a few.

Because of the cold spring, I believe migrants were delayed and then when they did come they all came together. On May 9, I saw what I estimated as 2000 Bobolinks in one large alfalfa field near the City Waterworks. They literally poured into the area from the east, the south and the west, and rained down from the sky. Looking up into the sky with glasses, one could not see migrating streams passing over, so they must have been flying pretty high up. They seemed to us to be dropping down from out of nothing. There were adult males, females, and males of the second year. These last showed the buffy nape and large white areas on wings and rump, but otherwise were quite brownish. They were singing too. Ordinarily, large flocks of singing males, in full nuptial plumage, migrate through here first. These are followed in two weeks or so by females and young males.. Here they were all together. Across the field, flock after flock would rise up from the alfalfa, fly a little way, and then settle down again. Other flocks would pile in on top of them, and still others. I do not know actually how many Bobolinks there were, because it was beyond my ability to estimate them. With the movements of the flocks, it seemed to me that hundreds and hundreds of shooting stars streamed out across the field. The point I wish to make is that they were so close together one lost all sight of birds, one saw only . . . white stars. The only thing I have seen comparable to it is migrating Redwings, or Grackles, which go through here in great flocks.

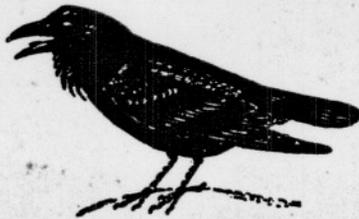
On the same day, May, 9, Mr. Bailey reported a Black-necked Stilt at Fungo.

I have seen a pair of Wood Ducks, quite evidently nesting, at the cypress pools in Seashore St. Park, at White Pond in the park, at Smith Lake, and at Stumpy Lake. On May 26, Mrs. Barefield and I saw a mother wood duck swim away from the bank below us. Her back was poked up into peaks, and a few seconds later when she was a little ways from shore, seven babies were swimming close to her tail.

On June 12, we counted 14 Great Blue Herons standing on the fishing nets below Virginia Beach, while another was coming from the woods by Fresh Pond and flying out toward the nets. On June 19, we found 20 herons on the same nets. Mrs. Darden, Mrs. Lester and I watched these Herons about 2 hours. We saw 3 herons leave the net and fly inland past Fresh Pond and in the direction of the swampy bottomlands by Princess Anne Courthouse. We watched them with glasses until they disappeared from sight. We saw two other herons return to the nets, but did not pick them up until they were flying near Fresh Pond. We think there must be a heronry, altho at some distance inland from the shore, and will try to watch these herons and report more about them.

On February 20, Miss Faye Savago, High School biology teacher, told me an incident which I think may be of interest to the ladies of the VSO. On her way to school, she saw two female Cardinals, fighting furiously, gripping each other by the necks, and rolling over and over in a ditch. Next they hopped up onto the sidewalk where they continued to peck each other fearfully. At least 100 feathers she says were strewn upon the ground. In a bush nearby were 2 male Cardinals, watching the contest, and apparently shouting their approval -- or encouragement -- or something! The climax came when the females leaped high up into the air still holding each other by the heads. Unfortunately, she could not stop to see the finish of this fray. Now what do you suppose was the meaning of such unseemly conduct. Were they fighting over their mates, or nesting sites, or what?

Norfolk, Virginia



The Raven

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Notes on the Distribution of the
Loggerhead and Migrant Shrike in Virginia

by

C. E. Addy and C. O. Handley

The A. O. U. Check-List (1931) mentions the Migrant Shrike, Lanius ludovicianus migrans Palmer, as the only form of shrike occurring in Virginia, and confines the distribution of the Loggerhead Shrike, Lanius L. Ludovicianus Lemaeus, to entirely south of the state.

Another authority which we might consider as superseding the A.O.U. Check-List is the publication entitled "A Systematic Revision and Natural History of the American Shrikes (Lanius)" by Alden H. Miller. This was also published in 1931. Dr. Miller has worked out the distribution of the shrike thoroughly from all available scientific skins. We may, therefore, consider his material the more acceptable. Speaking of the distribution of the Loggerhead Shrike he states that it is a permanent resident "northeastward through South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia, southeast of the Alleghany Mountains at least to Nelson County, Virginia". This very definitely places breeding birds from the southern half of the state to be of the southern form ludovicianus. In regard to the distribution of the Migrant Shrike in Virginia, Dr. Miller states that it breeds "northwest of the Alleghany Mountains to Maryland, thence east to the Atlantic Coast and north to New Brunswick". Hence we would judge that the northern form migrans is either not found or is very rare as a breeding bird in any part of the state. Dr. Miller also gives the winter range of migrans as "south to Virginia, North Carolina, Mississippi". Keeping this in mind we would expect to find both migrans and ludovicianus present in Virginia during the winter, with ludovicianus probably restricted to the extreme southern part of the state.

In remarking about the intermediate forms occurring between the ranges of the two birds Dr. Miller states, "ludovicianus intergrades with migrans in Northern Virginia along the Valley of the Potomac River..... As far as can be learned, the mountains which bound ludovicianus to the northwest constitute a zone in which shrikes are rare or are entirely absent. Intergradation in this region, although possibly occurring to a limited extent, is not demonstrated in the collections available for examination".

During the past year a series of 21 shrikes were collected by the authors at random over the state as the opportunity permitted. The birds were collected by seasons as follows: 12 spring (2 February, 10 March); 1 summer (May); 3 fall (August, September, October); and 5 winter (2 November, 2 December, 1 January). It is regretted that only one bird was collected during the nesting period (April, May, and June). However, several points of interest concerning the distribution of the birds collected prompt us to present the data gained thus far hoping that it may stimulate others to send us specimens from other sections of the state. All of the specimens collected were named by Dr. H. C. Oberholser, Senior Biologist of the Bureau of Biological Survey, upon whose determination the following remarks are based.

Ten birds collected in the southeastern part of the state in Appomattox, Nottoway, Dinwiddie, Greenville, and Southampton Counties in early March were equally divided between the two forms, migrans and ludovicianus. Two other birds collected in this section (Dinwiddie and Prince George Counties) in early November were both ludovicianus. Other birds of this form from the southwestern part of the state were a young female collected near Pembroke, Giles County, on August 22, a male at Blacksburg, Montgomery County, on December 24, and a female in Tazewell County on February 21; and an adult male taken along the Lee Highway in Rockingham County on October 5. Finding ludovicianus in the vicinity of Harrisonburg is not only a slight extension of the range to the north from Nelson County as given by Dr. Miller but the winter occurrence of the species both there and at several points in southwest and southeast Virginia is as stated by Dr. Murray "frankly surprising at any season, but not unreasonable". Judging from the specimens taken ludovicianus is not entirely migratory.

In addition to the five specimens of migrans mentioned as taken in southeastern Virginia in March, a brooding male was taken a few miles northeast of Lexington in Rockbridge County on May 16; two males and a female in the vicinity of Blacksburg on September 14, December 14, and January 31, respectively; and a male in Bland County on February 21. The nine specimens of migrans taken in southeast and southwest Virginia during the fall, winter, and spring agree with the distribution of migrans as given by both the Check-List and Dr. Miller. Also the occurrence of the brooding bird in Rockbridge County in May is as might be expected from the Check-List, however, this is on the border of the breeding range of ludovicianus and within the zone designated by Dr. Miller for the occurrence of the intermediate form.

In conclusion, what the data at hand seems to come to is that in Virginia in winter shrikes wander widely, migrans going south of its breeding range as would be expected, and ludovicianus either going north of its breeding range in a very surprising fashion or remaining non-migratory on a yet undetermined breeding range.

Blacksburg, Virginia.

The Summer Birds of Burko's Garden, Virginia

By J. J. Murray

Burko's Garden, a little valley set high in the mountains in the southeastern corner of Tazewell County, has often been called "the loveliest spot in Virginia". Whether or not it can claim that supreme praise, there can be no dispute about its beauty. No one who has stood on the Garden Mountain and looked down on its gently rolling blue-grass hills, its comfortable farm houses, its groves of sugar maples, and its herds of fat cattle, will ever forget the sight. Burko's Garden is an oval, eight and a half miles long from northeast to southwest and four miles across. It is remarkably level for a mountain valley, with nearly all the valley floor lying between the 3,100 and 3,200 foot elevations above sea level. The encircling rim of mountains, higher than they appear from the already high valley floor, vary from 3,500 to 4,500 foot above sea level, rising at the highest point on Clinch Mountain to 4,724 feet. The gap at the north is the only place where the water can leave the valley.

According to Colonel Edward Steidtmann of the Virginia Military Institute, the surrounding mountains once formed concentric arches of limestone, shale, and sandstone, with the sandstone on top. The top of the arch has been worn off. Around the edges of what is now the valley the outer layer of hard sandstone persisted, while the softer, inner layers of shale and limestone were worn away to form this depression. The Garden, as the local people call it, was discovered by James Burke in 1749. We were shown near our camp the depression in the hillside where his house once stood. Major Lewis camped there in 1756 in his expedition against the Indians. Burko's Fort stood there at the time of the Revolution; and in 1781, in the latter years of the Revolution, there was a raid on the inhabitants by the Indians.

The Garden is rather thinly settled. Only some five hundred people, we were told, living there. There is little cultivated land. From the mountains above the valley it looks almost like one beautiful green pasture. There is comparatively little timber, there being one long belt along the eastern side near the foot of the Garden Mountain, and five or six other tracts of some size. There are few of the scrubby areas that are usually found in our mountain sections, the land being kept so clear and clean that it is not easy to find good habitats for such birds as Chestnut-sided Warblers and Indigo Buntings. We were struck by the fact that there were few locust trees or crataegus bushes left standing in the pastures, the land being very different from most of Southwest Virginia in this respect. There are some magnificent sugar maple groves, and occasional open park-like oak groves, with handsome trees. The thing that strikes every visitor to the Garden is the grass, blue-grass so luxuriant that the stock cannot seem to keep it down and so rich that cattle can be shipped straight from pasture to market. Because of the fact that so much of the country is open birds seem scarcely so abundant as in most of the Virginia mountain country. The Garden is plentifully watered, with springs everywhere, many marshy spots, and numbers of small creeks, although naturally there are no large streams in so small a valley. At the northern edge the streams unite to form a small mill pond, from which Wolf Creek runs through the gap and out of the valley.

Dr. Alexander Wetmore and Mr. John Graf of the United States National Museum and the writer spent the first week of June, 1940 in Burke's Garden. Dr. Wetmore and Mr. Graf reached there in the afternoon of June 3, and I joined them the next morning. We left on Saturday morning, June 8. Through the kindness of Mr. Jack Davis we secured an empty tenant house in the center of the valley, where we were able to make a comfortable camp. Dr. Wetmore made for the National Museum a small but carefully selected collection of the birds which are important for a study of distribution in western Virginia. During the four days we covered all sections of the valley and climbed the various surrounding mountains. On June 4, we visited Rich Mountain and the Little Creek valley just outside the Garden, through the gap. On June 5, we climbed Clinch Mountain on the western rim, the highest point in the neighborhood. The top of Clinch until recently was covered with a fine spruce forest, one of the few remaining in Virginia; but now a sawmill high on a shoulder of the mountain is eating away at the last remnants. On June 6, we climbed the Garden Mountain on the southern rim; and worked also in the long tract of woods near the foot of the mountain. On June 7, we worked in the northeastern part of the Garden, and again visited Little Creek and Rich Mountain. The dogwood still had blooms on Rich Mountain. On the Garden Mountain we found the beautiful and fragrant Azalea roseum. Rhododendron Catawbiense was blooming in the gap, and magnificent flame azalea bushes were in full bloom both in the valley and on the mountains.

Burke's Garden had always seemed an interesting possibility for faunal zone work. I was particularly anxious to see what Carolinian influence there might be in a stretch of country that was high enough to belong in the upper Alleghanian, that was isolated by mountains, and that was at the same time open, cultivated country. The list of birds observed, particularly those seen on the valley floor, will indicate, I believe, that Burke's Garden is clear-cut Alleghanian territory. It is, for example, one of the few places in Virginia where I have heard Veeries singing in level country. Due to the open character of the region, there is at the same time, however, an intrusion in small numbers of certain definitely Carolinian species, such as the Red-bellied Woodpecker, White-eyed Vireo, Kentucky Warbler and Cardinal, not to speak of the Yellow-breasted Chat, which although considered an Austral bird, can be found in our latitudes anywhere except on the very highest mountains. There seems to be no tinge of Canadian in the Burke's Garden Section, even on the mountains, although some Canadian birds were probably found on Clinch before the spruce was wrecked. While birds were not particularly abundant in Burke's Garden we found a good list of species. As is often the case we missed certain birds that might have been expected - Green Heron, Whip-poor-will, Night-hawk, Kingfisher, Pileated Woodpecker, Prairie Horned Lark, House Wren, Shrike, Black-throated Green Warbler, Baltimore Oriole (which, we were told, sometimes occurs), Cowbird. We did not find the Mockingbird, but this was rather to be expected. Nor did we see a Carolina Wren. This does not mean that it may not occur there in some years, for, as Dr. Wetmore suggested, the past winter was a hard one on the Carolina Wren population everywhere in the northern part of its range. I had set 75 species as a probable goal. We found 74 species, as follows:

1. Wood Duck. A male was seen flying from the millpond, June 6.
2. Turkey Vulture. Only fairly common; seen four times.
3. Black Vulture. One seen by Dr. Wetmore, June 3.
4. Sharp-shinned Hawk. One flew past camp. June 4.
5. Red-tailed Hawk. One, high over the center of the valley, June 6.
6. Sparrow Hawk. A pair near camp; one other bird seen.
7. Ruffed Grouse. One flushed on Rich Mountain, June 4, and another heard drumming; one flushed on Clinch Mountain, June 5.

8. Bob-white. Not common.
9. Eastern Turkey. One heard on Clinch Mountain, June 5.
10. Killdeer. Paris seen at two places in the Garden.
11. Mourning Dove. Not very common.
12. Black-billed Cuckoo. Six or eight seen or heard.
13. Barred Owl. One heard calling around ten O'clock on the morning of the 2nd. The sun was shining at the time. Curiously enough it was raining by noon.
14. Chimney Swift. Not common; six or eight pairs seen.
15. Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Fairly common.
16. Flicker. Common. We heard a bird digging away inside a nest in a large sugar maple at our camp.
17. Red-bellied Woodpecker. Seen at three places in the Garden.
18. Red-headed Woodpecker. Only one seen, June 7, east end of the Garden.
19. Hairy Woodpecker. Seen once in the Garden, and once on Garden Mountain.
20. Downy Woodpecker. Seen in the Garden and on all three mountains.
21. Kingbird. A pair at the pond; a single bird at the other end of the Garden.
22. Crested Flycatcher. Common in the Garden and on the mountains.
23. Phoebe. One on Little Creek; one on Garden Mountain.
24. Wood Pewee. Abundant. Three nests: Rich Mountain, June 4, bird incubating; Clinch Mountain, June 5, half-completed; Garden Mountain, June 6, almost completed.
25. Rough-winged Swallow. A few; one seen at the pond on the 6th, gathering grass for a nest.
26. Barn Swallow. A few. One seen carrying mud into a barn on the 6th. (We were told that Cliff Swallows had nested in the Garden).
27. Blue Jay. Common.
28. Raven. One seen on Clinch Mountain. June 5; another flying high over camp, making slow headway against the wind, during a storm on June 7.
29. Crow. Common.
30. Black-capped Chickadee. Two chickadees heard on Rich Mountain on June 4, but not seen were taken to be this species, since the song was definitely two-syllabled; but the record is not beyond doubt, since the birds were not seen and since the only chickadee collected was the Carolina.
31. Carolina Chickadee. One seen at the Pond, June 6; and one collected on Little Creek, June 7. The first bird was not singing; the second had the four-syllabled song.
32. Tufted Titmouse. Uncommon.
33. White-breasted Nuthatch. A few seen.
34. Bowick's Wren. Fairly Common; seen mainly on the lower slopes of the mountains, but also in the Garden.
35. Catbird. Common in suitable places at all altitudes.
36. Brown Thrasher. Common.
37. Robin. Only fairly common. Grown young on the wing.
38. Wood Thrush. Only fairly common, but at all altitudes. A nest found near the pond, June 6, with four eggs.
39. Veery. Common on the mountains; also heard singing at 3,200 feet in the largest tract of timber in the Garden.
40. Bluebird, Fairly common.

41. Cedar Waxwing. Uncommon.
42. Starling. Common everywhere, although not so abundant as in the lower valleys of southwest Virginia. Young on the wing and beginning to flock, their harsh voices heard everywhere.
43. White-eyed Vireo. One at the pond, June 5; three on Little Creek, June 7. We could hear White-eyed Vireos and a Scarlet Tanager singing at the same time.
44. Yellow-throated Vireo. Only on Rich Mountain, where one was collected June 7.
45. Mountain Vireo. One heard on Rich Mountain, June 4.
46. Red-eyed Vireo. Abundant everywhere.
47. Parula Warbler. Fairly common, in the Garden and on the lower mountains.
48. Yellow Warbler. Fairly common. At least eight were seen in the Garden, and others on Little Creek.
49. Cairns' Warbler. Common on the mountains; also a few in the Garden. A nest with four eggs in a rhododendron bush, found on Little Creek on June 7, by Mr. Graf and described to me by him, probably belonged to this warbler.
50. Blackburnian Warbler. A few in the mountains; one in the woods at the west end of the Garden.
51. Chestnut-sided Warbler. Abundant in woods and brush everywhere.
52. Oven-bird. Common in the woods everywhere.
53. Kentucky Warbler. Three seen or heard, one on Little Creek and two on a brushy hillside near the pond.
54. Northern Yellow-throat. Uncommon. One collected on Little Creek on June 7, was clearly the northern bird.
55. Yellow-breasted Chat. Common on dry hillsides in the Garden; also found on Rich Mountain.
56. Hooded Warbler. A few in the Garden and on the slopes of Rich Mountain.
57. Canada Warbler. One on Rich Mountain; common on Clinch.
58. American Redstart. Several seen at the pond and on Little Creek.
59. English Sparrow. Fairly common around farm yards.
60. Meadowlark. I have never seen a place where this bird is as abundant as it is in Burke's Garden. A nest seen, with four small young and one egg, June 4.
61. Red-wing. Common. A nest found at camp, June 4, with four eggs well advanced in incubation.
62. Purple Grackle. Common.
63. Scarlet Tanager. Common, both on the mountains and on wooded hills in the Garden.
64. Cardinal. Two males and one female seen on Little Creek, June 4; a pair in the woods at east end of the Garden, June 6. A nest was found on Little Creek, June 7, the female incubating three eggs.
65. Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Common near the tops of Clinch and Garden Mountains.
66. Indigo Bunting. Abundant everywhere.
67. Goldfinch. Fairly common.
68. Red-eyed Towhee. Common everywhere. Small young on the wing.
69. Grasshopper Sparrow. One, June 6, in field at east end of the Garden.
70. Vesper Sparrow. Fairly common in the pasture fields around the rim of the garden. None seen in the center of the valley.
71. Carolina Junco. Three on Rich Mountain, June 4; common on Clinch, June 5, five on Garden Mountain, June 6.

72. Chipping Sparrow. Fairly common. Young just out of the nest, June 6.
73. Field Sparrow. Common. Two nests on Little Creek; one with four small young, June 4; one with four eggs, June 7.
74. Song Sparrow. Common.

Lexington, Virginia.

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BIRDS OF THE MOUNTAINS

By Ruskin S. Freer

There was recently organized in Lynchburg a local chapter of the Virginia Society of Ornithology, with Mrs. James W. Wiltshire, Jr., as President, and Mrs. C. L. Burgess as Secretary-Treasurer. Other members include Kingsley Stevens, Kenneth Lawless, Billy McIntosh, Edward Calvert, John Mahan, Rev. James Sprunt, J. Harvey Nichols, Sr., Mrs. W. C. Ward, and the writer. The first activities planned by this group included two trips to the mountains to study mountain species during the nesting season. The first of these trips was taken on June 6, and had as a special objective the finding of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker on Cold Mountain in Amherst County, where it was first found in July 1933, by this writer with Dr. J. J. Murray of Lexington.

Leaving the city at six in the morning, we drove by way of Amherst and route 60 to Brown's Mountain just this side of Oronoco, where we took the road to Alto, turning off on another little road to "Han" Kerr's farm, where we left the cars. Much of this road provided terrible punishment to the cars. It is very rocky and we were constantly having to maneuver to dodge big rocks sticking up in the middle of the road or along the side. The next time we will walk in over this final stretch, as we could make as good time, with much less damage to cars.

It had been six years since I had been up in this country. We had made two trips, in the summers of 1933 and 1934, to Mt. Pleasant, which took us past Cold Mountain. Recently a road has been reconstructed up past Cold Mountain, around the rim of the Hog Camp to the head of Rocky Creek, over which trucks are hauling out extract wood.

The walk from the stopping point for the cars at Mr. Kerr's place to Cold Mountain is a mile and a half or two miles. Most of this area has been cut over and is now covered by second growth, or spots where there are a few large trees. Along this road we found many Chestnut-sided Warblers, a few Hooded Warblers, a Veery, or Wilson's Thrush and a few Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. We also stopped to watch a Canada Warbler for a time. As we approached the bigger woods on the slopes of Cold Mountain several other birds peculiar to the mountains were found. Of course many of the birds of lower altitudes were found here also, such as Red-eyed Vireos, Wood Thrushes, Catbirds, and Towhees.

Arriving at the point on the side of Cold Mountain where we had found the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in 1933, we deployed through the beautiful stand of sweet birch and sugar maples which cover the mountainside. A thorough search of the woods,

failed to reveal any Sapsuckers. One of the party remarked that we were both the "saps" and the "suckers", since we failed in the chief objective of the trip. We did not even find evidences of recent drilling by Sapsuckers. We did find one very interesting thing in these woods, however. Inspecting an old dead tree trunk in which there were several old woodpecker cavities, one of the boys found a flying squirrel all curled up, asleep. Presently two flying squirrels emerged and hastily scrambled to safety. All we could see in the cavity was one head, with the animal's tail curled up over it.

There were several interesting plants in this woods. Dutchman's pipe vine was in bloom, and we admired the quaint maroon triangle with yellow circle in the center, typical dutchman's pipe below it, which forms the flower. Clintonia was in bloom, as was also the dainty Canada mayflower. Somewhere above us a Wood Thrush was singing, while all around many Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were providing an exquisite chorus. Below a Catbird and a Towhee were singing, while from out in the gap we heard Indigo Buntings. The forest floor was covered with a profuse growth of several varieties of ferns. The interrupted fern was probably the most striking.

After a fruitless hour of searching for the Sapsuckers, we emerged into the gap at the head of the vast grassy bowl known as the Hog Camp. Here there are many old prostrate chestnut skeletons. Although the sun was beating down fiercely by this time, there was a splendid cool breeze blowing through the gap. We sat for a while on the trunks of these fallen chestnut trees and listened to the birds around us. There were several Carolina Juncos singing nearby. An occasional House Wren and a couple of Bewick's Wrens were seen or heard. The biggest thrill of the day came when a Raven flew over, giving one raucous croak. Several of us saw it and the rest heard the croak. A Crested Flycatcher called its "Creep" note and a couple of Barn Swallows flew up from the Hog Camp, over the gap and down into the adjacent valley. A few Turkey and Black Vultures circled over the distant mountain tops.

We moved on down the grassy slopes of the Hog Camp, toward a splendid spring at the lower end, where we had lunch. Along the way, we found Vesper Sparrows in two places. The Killdeer and Prairie Horned Larks found there on previous trips were not there this time.

Numerous Juncos were found, and we were continually searching for their nests but found only two old ones. Three other birds of the higher altitudes, the Scarlet Tanager, Mountain Vireo, and Cairn's Warbler, were fairly abundant in wooded sections. Fifty-three species of birds were listed during the day.

This is a delightful section for any who are interested in the life of the higher altitudes. The gap just above the Hog Camp is a little over 3,600 feet above sea level. The slope where we looked for the Sapsucker is about 3,700 feet elevation. As soon as one climbs to a point above 2,500 feet elevation, even, changes in bird life, particularly, become evident. One begins to find Juncos, Veeries, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Scarlet Tanagers, Chestnut-sided, Cairn's and Canada Warblers regularly. The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker is the only bird which is distinctly of the Canadian life zone to be found near Lynchburg. The others are of the Alleghanian life zone, which lies just below the Canadian, and seems here to extend down to about 2,500 feet.

Dr. Murray has pointed out that there is far less of typical Canadian life zone territory in Virginia than had been believed formerly. Even those areas which might justly be called Canadian are more properly southern Canadian, because of marked differences in life and temperature conditions as compared with true Canadian of the more northern sections of the country. Most of our higher mountains of this section are simply Alleghanian so far as life and temperature characteristics are concerned. Incidentally, Dr. Murray had a splendid paper on "The Faunal Zones of the Southern Appalachians" in the February-March issue of The Virginia Journal of Science. All who are interested in the plants and animals of the mountains, and the environmental conditions which determine their distribution, would greatly enjoy this article.

(From the Lynchburg News)

Lynchburg, Virginia.

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AMELIA BIRD NOTES

by
John B. Lewis

The unusually cold weather of the early spring delayed the arrival of a few of the early species of birds, but later on most of them caught up with the schedule inspite of frosty nights. Again Black-pole Warblers have been very scarce. In fact only one has been seen, a singing male on May 6. Large flocks of migrating Goldfinches were passing through, April 27 to May 5, about four days later than their average dates.

Wild ducks have shown a definite increase in numbers this spring. While at Beaver Pond on the afternoon of April 1, a large raft of ducks were feeding near the center of the pond. Slowly sweeping across them with my glasses I definitely counted 89. Some may have been missed where two or more were exactly in my line of sight. A large majority of them were Scaups, with a few Mallards and Blacks, and a half dozen that I could not identify with certainty.

Ospreys seem to be on the increase with us, too. I saw one at Beaver Pond, and Rev. Charles Kernan reports having seen them at Rowlett's pond and along the Appomattox river.

On May 14, while putting out a line of small mammal traps in a large tract of swampy old fields known as Mill Quarter, in the extreme southeastern corner of the county, I flushed a Wild Turkey from a nest containing 6 eggs. The nest was under trumpet creeper and a few dowberry vines in the edge of an old field. It was about 20 feet from a hedge-row of small trees and about 200 yards from the woods along Nanozine Creek, which forms the line between Amelia and Dinwiddie Counties. It was cautiously visited again May 16, when it still contained only 6 eggs. The location is about a half mile from the nearest house, or cultivated land.

A number of Henslow's Sparrows are again singing in the old fields at Mill Quarter, and one is heard singing regularly in "Tom Lynch" swamp, three and one half miles north of Amelia Village.

My friend, Fred Robertson, of the Pine Grove neighborhood in the northeast side of the county, reported the finding of a Great Horned Owl's nest containing young, about the middle of April. I did not get to visit this nest with him, until May 8, after the young owls had left it. The nest is a very bulky affair, in the top of a shortleaf pine, about 50 feet from the ground. About a half gallon of pellets were gathered from the ground under the nest. These were brought home and carefully picked to pieces. They consisted almost entirely of rabbit bones and fur. The only exceptions were a fragment of a rather large feather and a few very small bones of an unidentified creature.

On May 16, a Least Sandpiper, *Pisobia ninnilla*, was running about in the driveway to my garage. When flushed it circled and lit in the driveway in a neighbor's yard. It is new to my Amelia list.

Another new bird was added to the Amelia County list when, on May 21, I collected a singing male Northern-water Thrush, *Seiurus noveboracensis*, in a small wooded bog in a pasture field near our home.

Amelia, Virginia.

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THE WHITE-CROWNED CHOIR

On April 22, at sunset I heard the song of the White-crowned Sparrow in a garden adjoining the cottage where I take my meals. As I walked along the highway that passes the cottage, a White-crowned Sparrow flew out to an apple orchard across the way. There he was joined in song by four more of his own kind. Three of them were on the ground and I had a good view of their white crowns.

From the pink, fragrant blossoms of the apple trees came the song of the Yellow Warbler. Beyond the orchard, in the West, the sun was setting in rosebud splendor behind the summits of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Bertha Daniel
Gladys, Virginia.

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TWO RARE DUCKS AT LYNCHBURG

On Wednesday, April 24, 1940, following a stormy night, we had the largest number of ducks on Timber Lake which has visited the Lake this season. Timber Lake is in Campbell County near Lynchburg. Among the number were about 65 Scaups and a flock of 27 Old Squaws and five White-winged Scoters. The birds were observed at 1:30 and 6:30 P. M. through a 30x telescope.

The Old Squaws showed three plumages, winter and summer, male and the female plumage. Males and females seemed to be about equal in numbers. The flock was very active, swimming and diving constantly at noon. The birds acted in unison,

swimming rapidly in the same direction, then suddenly, all diving at once.

The Scoters were identified by their peculiar head-profile and the white spot on the wing. They were blacker than Black Ducks.

Old Scaaws had been observed here only twice before, a single male in December, 1927, and three birds which lingered for some weeks during the spring of 1937. I have not recorded any Scoters here before, so the latter species brings the Lynchburg list to 206 species.----Ruskin S. Froor.

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A New Bird for the Virginia List

On May 1, 1940, a strange bird was brought into the office of the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries. Mr. Carl H. Nolting, Chairman of the Commission, writes that the bird was identified by the Superintendent of Game Propagation as an American Magpie, Pica pica hudsonia. The bird was caught in a steel trap near Ballsville, Powhatan County. Mr. Nolting stated that the specimen would be mounted for the State Museum.

There is always the possibility that such a bird may have been an escaped cage specimen; and that later we may get information to that effect. Unless that happens, however, it seems reasonable to look on this record as an addition to the list of Virginia birds.

J. J. Murray,
Lexington, Virginia.

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Notes and News

Protection for the Bald Eagle. The latest news on the bill to provide Federal protection for the Bald Eagle is that the bill has passed both the House and the Senate and has gone to the President for his signature. Unfortunately Delegate Dinond of Alaska succeeded in amending the bill in the House to exempt Alaska from its provisions. The supporters of the bill felt that it was better to let the bill go through with this amendment than to risk a deadlock that would mean no legislation at all at this session. The passage of this bill is the climax of ten years of work by the friends of the great bird that is the symbol of American freedom.

Bird Haven, Lynchburg, Virginia. On May 25, 1940, the Little Garden Club of Lynchburg dedicated a bird sanctuary at Riverside Park, Lynchburg, to be known as Bird Haven. The dedication was the central item of ^{an} elaborate and beautiful program. Professor Ruskin S. Froer delivered the Dedicatory address before a large audience.

Scattered Virginia Notes

Danville, April 24, 1940. A yellow-throated Warbler was seen and heard singing in a grove of scattered pines just south of the city.

James River, April 24. Large flocks of water fowl were seen at various points along James River. Just below Big Island: 65 Scaups, about 45% of them males, and 1 Shoveller. Three miles above Big Island: 50 male and 25 female Scaups; 4 Bonaparte Gulls; and one bird which I thought was a phalarope (sp.?)
Snowden Lake: two flocks of Scaups, totalling 36 males and 30 females, and one American Merganser. Balcony Falls: About 100 Scaups, mostly females, and a pair of American Mergansers.

Mountain Lake, June 8. Five Black Vultures seen over the road going up to Mountain Lake from Highway number 8.

J. J. Murray
Lexington, Virginia.



The Raven

BULLETIN OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY
PUBLISHED AT LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA

DR. J. J. MURRAY, EDITOR
LEXINGTON, VA.

Vol. XI

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 1940

Nos. 8 & 9

BIRD OBSERVING

at Blacksburg, Virginia

1926 - 1940

Ralph M. Brown

I came to Blacksburg in September, 1925, but I did not begin to make bird observations until April, 1926. For a couple of years, I spent very little time in the field, going out only on Sundays. About 1928, I believe, I began, during the spring migration, to look for birds, while I was going to and from my office, in addition to my Sunday excursions. It was quite a walk to the "ice pond", frequented by water birds, in the Spring and Fall, so I seldom went there- probably, not more than three or four times a year, during my fifteen years here. And it was not, until 1930, that I started to record birds in the Fall.

As members of the V. S. O., very well know, Dr. Ellison A. Smyth, Jr., Professor of Biology, at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, 1891-1925, observed and recorded birds, in and around Blacksburg, during that period, and in October 1912, published in the Auk, his "Birds observed in Montgomery County, Virginia", one of the most complete county bird lists in the United States. He not only recorded breeding, migrant, and occasional birds, but also noted the nesting times of the breeding birds. And I need not tell any of you that checking up on birds nesting in a county the size of Montgomery requires extensive ornithological knowledge, infinite patience, a great deal of time, and plenty of leg work. In the Auk, for January 1925, Dr. Smyth brought his list up to April 24, 1925. In all, he recorded 208 species.

My great ambition was to add birds to Dr. Smyth's list, and, to my joy, on May 10, 1926 (during my first spring here), I picked up the Bay-breasted Warbler, my first addition to the list. And that was all for 1926. In 1927, I did better for I came across the White-eyed Vireo, the Blue Grosbeak, the Gray-checked Thrush, the Nashville Warbler, and the Blue-winged Warbler. The Lapland Longspurs presented themselves to my eyes in 1928. Then, until 1930, I marked time not being able to increase

the list by one single, solitary bird. A Hudsonian Curlew was my bag that year. And my list of additions comes to an end in 1934, when I spied the Mountain Vireo.

My Montgomery County records would have been more numerous, I know, if I had done more "ice pond", lake and Fall observing. And I should have added a number of nesting records to Dr. Smyth's list, but have neither the time, the patience, nor the inclination to hunt bird nests. One of these days someone will find nests of the Scarlet Tanager, the Hooded Warbler, and Cairn's Warbler around here, for I have noted all of these birds quite a number of times after the spring migration has been completed.

My list, to date, is probably 185 birds, and I am in hopes of adding to it before I leave Blacksburg.

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A DAY ON THE BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY

by

M. G. Lewis

In his paper "A Topographic Survey of Virginia Ornithology" read by Dr. Murray at the Annual Meeting in Harrisonburg, he listed among other areas needing "special attention" the Patrick-Henry-Franklin County Region. This appealed to me particularly, recognizing the correctness and importance of his suggestion.

On June 29, I took advantage of the week-end to spend a day on the border of this territory along the new Blue Ridge Parkway. Leaving Salem early in the afternoon I camped along the border between Floyd and Franklin Counties, in the Parkway in the Blue Ridge Mountain, at an elevation of about 2500 to 3000 feet. Practically the entire day following was spent in this area. Observations which struck me as of most interest are listed below. Black and White Warblers were common throughout the wooded sections along the streams and at least three families of young, barely able to fly, were observed. They seemed to prefer the rhododendron thickets, hemlock, and white pines. In these same areas were Canadian Warblers with young.

Records are particularly needed on sub-species which occur in this area. These determine the range boundaries very accurately. However, these notes are at least of interest. A complete list of birds seen is as follows: Turkey Vulture, 6; Black Vulture, 2; Red-shouldered Hawk, 1; Sparrow-Hawk, 2; Ruffed Grouse, 2; Bob-White, 6; Mourning Dove, 6; Great Horned Owl (heard), 1; Screech Owl, 2; Chimney Swift, many; Flicker, 4; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 4, (young being fed); King Bird, 2; Crested Flycatcher, 6, (young being fed); Wood Pewee, 4; Least Flycatcher, 2; Barn Swallow, 5; Raven, 2; Crow, 6; Fish Crow, 2; Chickadee, 6; Tufted Titmouse, 5 (with young out of nest); Bewick Wren, 2; House Wren, 4; Carolina Wren, 2; Mockingbird, 4; Catbird, 2; Brown Thrasher, 6; Robin, 7; Wood Thrush, 5; Mountain Vireo, 2; Red-eyed Vireo, 6; Black-and-white Warbler, 6, (feeding young out of nest); Parula Warbler, 4; Cairn's Warbler, 2; Black-throated Green Warbler, 2; Pine Warbler, 2; Prairie Warbler, 6; Oven-bird, 10; Yellow-throat, 6; Yellow-breasted Chat, 8; Hooded Warbler, 10, (feeding young); Redstart, 2; Meadow-lark, 6; Summer Tanager, 4; Cardinal, 5; Indigo Bunting, 10; Towhee, 6; Chipping Sparrow, 6; Field Sparrow, 10; Song Sparrow, 8.

Salem, Virginia.

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V.S.O. VISITS THE BEACH AND BACK BAY

Heavy clouds, and threatening! A sea that, driven by a strong east wind, sent waves crashing over their fellows, to climb higher and higher on the spray drenched beach. A Government bulletin was predicting a hurricane by noon. This was the setting for the V.S.O. trip to Back Bay. Date: August 10, 1940.

The group was small, but very happy: Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Reed, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Barefield and son, LeRoy, all of Norfolk, Mr. J. Thomas Stewart, Jr., of Virginia Beach, Mrs. Marion Charlton of Portsmouth, Misses Ada Ball and Elizabeth Ryland of Richmond, Mrs. Ben Coffey of Memphis, Tenn., Dr. John H. Gray of Raleigh, N. C., and the writer. Hosts extraordinary were Mr. Harry Bailey, Manager of the Biological Survey Refuge at Back Bay, Mr. Euwell of the C.C.C., who furnished conveyance, and his stalwart helpers whom we will call, for want of their true names, Jehu and Paul Revere. Jehu was bedecked around the head after the style set some time ago by "Mad Anthony" Wayne. Omen of Action!

We left Virginia Beach a little before eight o'clock, going by truck straight down the beach. Sometimes we were in the surf, sometimes on the dry sand. When we wished to stop we would knock on the top of the driver's cab.

But the birds were not there; that is, not as they were in 1939. Mr. Bailey tells us that in the spring the migration seemed to him abnormally small. Oh, we saw possibly 1000 Sanderlings, a lot of birds. But last season on a similar trip we estimated that we saw twelve or fourteen times that many. And so it was with other species. And we report nothing unusual for the day.

About four miles from the Carolina State Line we cut across to the Back Bay flats. There we were hopeful of seeing the birds that we felt might be taking shelter from the wind. But the result was about the same. True, we saw about twenty Canada Geese, which we did not see a year ago; but that is no unusual record. The flats were as deserted as was the shore. (Plenty of chiggers in the high grass. Or did I get them all?)

At midday we were carried to an island in the middle of the bay, where we were served a most delightful lunch. This had been prepared by the ladies from Norfolk. Mr. Bailey is very proud of his picnic grounds. And well he may be. Rustic tables under beautiful holly trees, and around us everywhere the water. How we did enjoy the repast! And Nature herself had spread another table. The birds were thick in the wild cherry trees, enjoying themselves even as we. Had we remained longer we should have identified more land birds.

But it was past time for the hurricane to hit. So far nothing more serious than a shower of rain. That was soon over, and we ascended our chariot for the return to Virginia Beach. The tide was coming in, and the surf was heavy; and spray was reminding us of abnormal conditions. It was here that Jehu came into his own. He sped along the sand, running before the gathering storm like the chariot of Ahab. And always before us, back again, and on, was the little car of Mr. Bailey, a veritable Elijah.

The beach was strewn with debris, and many boards had treacherous nails; but our Jehu missed them all, turning, twisting, up on the beach, down in the water; here dodging a telephone pole (I do not know how he did it), there executing a half-

circle around a stump. We were running away from the hurricane. And there was danger everywhere, whether from sea or from sand or from flotsam and jetsam. We missed the holes in the sand, whether wet or dry; we missed the stumps; we missed the nails—all but one. But everyone took even that in good part. And when we finally got started again, the only thing to do was to make up for lost time. Remember, we were racing a hurricane.

Soon we were off the beach and across the Sand Bridge. Six or eight miles of county road. Bucephalus snorted and lengthened his stride. On we sped, over bridges and around curves. Every now and then the truck would kick up its heels like a jack rabbit; and so would we. It was a wild ride. Miss Ball had gotten into a sort of gossamer raincoat. Ensemble, you know; with hood and all. And that hood flapped in the wind like a flag at its masthead. Now and again someone would start from his seat (involuntarily), dive in the direction of this one or that, and kitten-fashion, suddenly stop dead in his tracks. And then it began to rain. That is, they said it was rain. Mr. Barefield, who lives in that section, and knows, said there was gravel mixed with the rain. I had an idea it was bullets. But we rounded the last curve, and we tore down the home stretch; and when we got to our starting point the rain was gone, and we had outdistanced the hurricane.

And birds or no birds, sunshine or storm, we are all ready for another trip. Our thanks to the ladies from Norfolk, and to the gentlemen of the Game Refuge and the C. C. C. It was a most delightful experience.

The List of Birds:

Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Double-crested Cormorant, 3; Great Blue Heron, 3; American Egret, 6; Little Blue Heron, 1; Green Heron, 1; Canada Goose, 20; Turkey Vulture, 10; Black Vulture, 1; Bald Eagle, 1; Osprey, 4; Bob White, 1; Piping Plover, 3; Semi-palmated Plover, 15 (est); Black-bellied Plover, 2; Ruddy Turnstone, 30 (or more); Willet, 30 (est); Lesser Yellowlegs, 3; Least Sandpiper, 2; Sanderlings, 1000 (est); Herring Gull, 30 (est); Ring-billed Gull, 3-4; Laughing Gull, 15-20; Gull-billed Tern, 2; Common Tern, 150 (est); Least Tern, fairly common; Royal Tern, 10-12; Black Tern, 10 (est); Mourning Dove, 3; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 1; Chimney Swift, a few; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 6 (est); Downy Woodpecker, 1; Kingbird, several pairs; Crested Flycatcher, 2; Tree Swallow, 100 (est); Barn Swallow, 3; Purple Martin, 10; Crow, 40-50 (est); Fish Crow, 18; House Wren, 2; Carolina Wren, 3; Long-billed Marsh Wren, 3-4; Mockingbird, 3; Catbird, 15 (est); Brown Thrasher, 2; Bluebird, 2; White-eyed Vireo, 1; Yellow Warbler, 2; Pine Warbler, 1; Prairie Warbler, 1; English Sparrow, 15-20; Meadowlark, 20 (est); Red-winged Blackbird, 15 (est); Orchard Oriole, 1-2; Boat-tailed Grackle, 4; Purple Grackle, 2; Cardinal, 3-4; Indigo Bunting, 1; Henslow's Sparrow, 2; Field Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 5-6. (Many birds seen as we hurried along, mainly sparrows and swallows, but not positively identified.)

Wm. B. McIlwaine, Jr.

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THE RAMBLER

By Ruskin S. Freer

On Tuesday, July 2, 1940, we were travelling eastward from Kenbridge in Lunenburg County when I heard the song of Bachman's Sparrow, the only time we heard it in almost 2500 miles of driving in Piedmont, Southside, Tidewater, Eastern Shore

and Northern Neck sections of the State during the summer.

Near Mannboro in Amelia county on July 3, I saw two shrikes and several Horned Larks. It is rather surprising that we saw these two species only one other time, and on this second occasion they were close together also, in Westmoreland county in the Northern Neck.

On Friday, July 5, we took the Little Creek ferry from Norfolk to Cape Charles. As we were leaving Little Creek, Bald Eagles, were flying about. We had splendid views of one or two adults flying low over the water near the dock, or as they alighted on stakes in the water. Off at a little distance there were five of these birds on the beach, apparently stooping to the role of beach-combers. Numerous Laughing Gulls and an occasional Herring Gull were seen over the period of several days that we were around the rivers in Tidewater. As the boat set out on the hour-and-three-quarters trip to Cape Charles, we noticed dark brown birds with a white crescent at the base of the tail, which flew along just above the surface of the water behind or alongside the boat. These proved to be Wilson's Petrels, a new species on my life-list.

Around Cape Charles, where we stayed two nights, there were many Ospreys, as well as gulls, and occasional terns. I also saw one Double-crested Cormorant. At one time I counted 26 Ospreys circling high over the Bay just off-shore. On Saturday we drove up to Chincoteague Island. Several times we saw scores of Laughing Gulls circling over fields. Chincoteague is reached by a causeway and several bridges extending across broad, flat marsh land. Here there were a great many sparrows singing, of a species which I could not identify. We saw several in flight, but they were too shy for us to get close views through the glasses. They were probably either Seaside or Sharp-tailed Sparrows. We heard their songs continually and I am hoping that someone more familiar with the birds of such a habitat can tell me what they probably were. Also abundant here, usually in cattails, and abundant wherever tides extended up the numerous rivers of Tidewater, were the Long-billed Marsh Wrens. Their songs filled the air whenever we passed a cattail swamp.

We returned by ferry to Old Point Comfort on Sunday afternoon, and on Tuesday morning, July 9, started northward through the Tidewater section via Yorktown, Mathews Courthouse, West Point, Tappahannock, to the Northern Neck. On the ferry trip back across the Bay, we were treated to the unusual sight of a school of about fifteen porpoises just under the port side of the boat. I was so absorbed in watching them that it never occurred to me to use the camera I had in my hand, and there were several splendid opportunities for photographing them as they rhythmically emerged from the water.

On this latter part of our trip the most noteworthy birds were abundant swallows and Henslow's Sparrows. At West Point in King William County on Tuesday, July 9, we saw a flock of several hundred Bank Swallows on wires and got a photograph of them. About ten miles north of West Point on the following day we saw a flock of several dozen Tree Swallows gathered on wires. There were usually a few Barn Swallows with the flocks of Tree and Bank Swallows. Again on Thursday, July 11, near Leedstown in Westmoreland county we saw nearly a hundred Bank Swallows in two flocks. I had never before seen these two species of swallows in such large numbers. Chapman says that the Tree Swallows begin this flocking shortly after July 1, near their nesting grounds.

Around Dunnsville in Essex county on Wednesday, July 10, and again in Westmoreland county in the Northern Neck on the following day, we frequently ran into colonies of Henslow's Sparrows. They are rare farther south in the State, but several times in this northern section as we passed good Henslow Sparrow habitats, I would stop the car and tell Mrs. Rambler we ought to hear Henslow's Sparrows here, and sure enough, we would hear several each time. They like old, abandoned fields with short weeds or broom sedge growing in them.

The most enjoyable feature of the past week, with the possible exception of the stop at Cape Charles, was our first visit to beautiful Bowling Green in Caroline county, and the feature which distinguishes Bowling Green is its fine old trees. We took pictures of several of these. At the home of the Furrs there were two large, old Japanese Cryptomeria trees and a Chinese pea, both unusual. At Robin's Roost farm, within the village limits, Dr. William Winston Roper planted Canada hemlock, balsam fir, English yew and Cunninghamia over a hundred years ago. These are giants now. The same kinds of trees were planted at the same time at Newmarket, an estate about five miles from town, by a Dr. Roper. Trees for both these estates were obtained from a nursery at Flushing, Long Island, which recalled to Mrs. Rambler a visit we had made several years ago while in Flushing to see some fine old beeches. We wondered if they too came from this old nursery, now gone out of business.

Also at Bowling Green there is the "Old Mansion", the original "Bowling Green", for which the town is named, with its row of ancient cedars, reputed to be the oldest in this country. We took pictures of these also.

Mrs. Rambler remarked, apropos the old saw that travel is educating, that this trip in our own state, was as good as a trip through foreign countries.

Lynchburg, Virginia.

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VIRGINIA NOTES

By Austin H. Clark

On August 6, on White Top just opposite the end of the road that leads across Elk Garden to Mt. Rogers I noticed the largest assemblage of Hummingbirds it has ever been my privilege to see. In a clearing in the woods, just off the road, there was a large patch of bee-balm (Monarda didyma) perhaps a quarter of an acre in extent. About it were fifty or more -- probably more -- hummingbirds of both sexes sitting on dead twigs, chasing each other about, or darting back and forth, all the time keeping up an incessant squeaking like so many mice. Hummingbirds are common everywhere in this region, but elsewhere they were seen only as individuals hovering about flowers or flying through the woods. A day or two later in Burkes Garden near the post-office I saw a similar assemblage of hummingbirds in a large garden full of flowers chiefly, or at least most conspicuously, hollyhocks. A few days after this at Meadowview I saw a third assemblage, this time in an unkept field full of wild bergamot (Monarda fistulosa) near some woods. In the last two cases there were only a couple of dozen or so hummingbirds; but their actions were the same in all three cases. The idea suggested itself that the birds were assembling in especially favorable spots for intensive feeding preparatory to migration, though I have never noticed any mention of such a habit on the part of our hummingbird.

I was interested in the colony of Red-headed Woodpeckers in Burkes Garden; this was the only place this bird was seen. There was a large flock of Grackles in the region east of the post-office, where also there were great numbers of starlings. We took with us to Burkes Garden, Mrs. G. A. Pobst of Tazewell, one of the leading bird enthusiasts of this region, and her young daughter.

The large cat-tail marsh at Saltville might be worth investigating. I heard some rails in it; but they might have been migrants. Small cat-tail marshes are frequent in this region, often high in the mountains in unexpected places.

At Harrisonburg I saw a night-hawk spending the day on a cross beam on a post about six feet high in the back yard of a house.

Washington, D. C.

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GOLDENWINGED WARBLER AT NARUNA

Naruna, Va. August 23, I found a male and female Golden-winged Warbler in a peach tree in an old garden place back of our home in Naruna. This is a new species for my local list here, and I believe it to be the first record for Campbell County. There is no doubt about the identification as I stood a few feet from the birds while they were preening and feeding. The golden crown, golden patch on wing, black throat, and grey coloration was unmistakable.

Bertha Daniel,
Naruna, Virginia.

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AMELIA SUB-SPECIES

This summer I collected a specimen each of our nesting House Wren and Chickadee and sent them to Dr. Harry C. Oberholser for identification. He states that the Chickadee is Penthestes c. carolinensis; and that the wren is baldwini, "but not typical, showing some intergradation with the typical race."

John B. Lewis,
Amelia, Virginia.

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SWIFT CREEK NOTES

On July 1, 1940 while spending the day at the Swift Creek Recreational Park in Chesterfield County, in connection with the work of the Virginia Natural History Institute, a few notes of interest were made. Six Little Blue Herons (white plumage) were seen at the Lake. House Wrens, Crested Flycatchers, and Yellow-throated Vireos were noted around headquarters. Kentucky and Yellow-throated Warblers were seen near the lake. Parula Warblers were very common, some of them carrying food. A nest of the Maryland Yellow-throat, with one egg and one young bird,

was found at the edge of the Lake by some of the students. Scarlet Tanagers, as well as Summer Tanagers, were seen and heard.

J. J. Murray,
Lexington, Va.

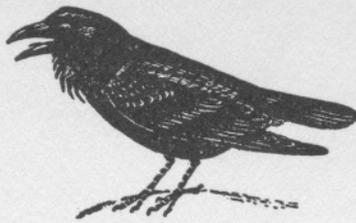
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THE VIRGINIA CONSERVATION GUIDE. Bulletin of Sweet Briar College, Vol. XXIII, No. 2, May 1940, Pp 48. Compiled by Pauline E. Lowe, Asst. Librarian, Sweet Briar College. Foreword by Rep. A. Willis Robertson, Chairman, Select Committee on Conservation of Wildlife Resources, U. S. House of Representatives. This small bulletin will be of great interest and help to all who are interested in the conservation of the flora and fauna of Virginia. It provides a selected list of publications dealing with conservation in general, legislation, soil conservation, water, trees, wild flowers, wildlife, songbirds, etc: also lists of films available on conservation, publications, organizations whose activities affect Virginia; and other pertinent material.

J. J. M.

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The rotogravure section of the Washington (D. C.) Post for August 18, 1940, published some very remarkable photographs of a Raven's nest and of young Ravens in various stages of growth. These were made by W. Bryant Tyrrell, of Takoma Park, Maryland, in the Shenandoah National Forest. A telephoto lens was used to get satisfactory shots of the adults. The young were banded.



The Raven

BULLETIN OF THE VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY
PUBLISHED AT LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA

DR. J. J. MURRAY, EDITOR
LEXINGTON, VA.

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No. 10

CAROLINIAN OBSERVATIONS OF THE EASTERN SHORE

By Alexander Sprunt, Jr.

The second "Tour Project" of the National Audubon Society gave the writer an opportunity of field work in an area completely new to him, and fulfilled an ambition of long standing. For many years, in connection with famous sea-bird colonies, the name of Cobb Island, Virginia, was as familiar as Bird Rock, or the Dry Tortugas, but it remained so without personal experience until the months of June and July 1940. During that period however, it was the writer's lot to conduct what were known as the Cobb Island Tours, a series of scheduled two-day trips to that long known nesting ground and the adjacent mainland. Many of the visitors participating in these trips had also been on similar ones carried out during the winter of 1940 in the Lake Okeechobee region of Florida.

Headquarters for the trips were at Eastville, Northampton County, some nine miles north of Cape Charles. From June 1, through July 18, the writer was daily in the field, with and without varying numbers of visitors who totalled 102, coming from twelve states and the District of Columbia. Thus, opportunity was given to make detailed and repeated investigations in a limited area and since the finding of birds was the primary objective, it will be seen that not much of what went on in an avian way was missed!

The writer was particularly impressed with certain similarities plus startling discrepancies between this area and that where he has lived all his life... the South Carolina Low Country. One is prone to compare a new locality with one's home country and there was much in this Eastern Shore to remind an observer of coastal Carolina. There were frequent clumps of pineland, much smaller, true, than the vast stretches of such further southward, but... pinelands all the same. There were potato fields and many tomatoes; there were salt marshes and barrier beaches; there were mimosa, crepe myrtles, and Pride of India trees, but there were no live-oaks and no Spanish Moss! Perhaps the lack of these latter, together with the absence of the palmetto, which were the marked differences one would note quickly. Spanish moss is not supposed to grow north of the Dismal Swamp to any extent, nor to cross Chesapeake Bay, but we did find a few feeble drapes of it in one single patch of woods south of

Eastville on the road to Wilkins Beach. Though rather discouraged looking, it was hailed with enthusiasm!

The sea-birds of the Cobb Island area have been so frequently written about that little can be added. It is well to recall that it is about the northern nesting limit of such species as the Royal and Gull-billed Terns, Oystercatcher, and Wilson Plover. The concentrations of all these are not, of course, nearly as heavy as those which occur on the Carolina coastal islands, nor are the Black Skimmer colonies as populous, but they are wonderful sights to the visitor from the north, or from inland locations. One misses the Brown Pelican on the low barrier sands, also, but one of the most surprising lacks was the virtual absence of herons!

The great marshes lying to the eastward of Oyster, and stretching away toward the out-lying islands, seemed ideal habitat for these birds, and it seemed impossible not to see them in plenty, but....they did not occur. Great Blues were observed sparingly, sometimes days would pass without one. The Green Heron was present in some numbers, and seen frequently, it being by far the most common member of the family. Black-crowned Night Herons were seen once, and a pair of Snowies made their ^{appearance} on Cobb Island one day. A few immature Little Blues cruised by perhaps once a week, but not a Louisiana Heron nor American Egret was observed. Since the latter is known to nest considerably to the north of this area (Paulsboro, N. J.) it seems excessively strange that none 'used' the coastal marshes of this section of the Eastern Shore. Certainly, for seven weeks at least, there was a complete absence of the species. The writer was told that some few did occur about Mockhorn Island, some few miles south of Oyster, but though we could see this island on our daily trips to Cobb's, no egrets appeared about it. They successfully eluded the searching gaze of over a hundred people in a seven week period!

In regard to sea-birds, the predominant species over the entire area was the Laughing Gull. One is rarely out of sight of one at any hour of the day. It nests abundantly in the marshes and feeds commonly all over the area, on land as well as through the marshes. No observer can fail to be impressed with the habit of this gull in feeding in the cultivated fields, following the tractors and plows, walking among the furrows, or wheeling and circling above the fields catching insects on the wing. It is strongly reminiscent of the Franklin's Gull of the mid-western prairies and also calls to mind the services rendered the early Mormon settlers of Utah when their crops were saved from the ravages of grasshoppers by the actions of gulls, to which birds the grateful people erected the only monument to birds in this country.

Much interest was also obvious among the land birds of the area. Here, some most surprising gaps occurred. It was for instance, one of the most "hawkless" communities that the writer has ever seen in the forty-two states where he has carried on bird observation. The lack of the birds of prey was no less than astonishing. Other than the Turkey Vulture and the Osprey, there simply were virtually none at all. Many remarked on it, and we endeavored particularly to search out localities where they could be found, but to no avail. In the entire seven weeks, one Bald Eagle, and one each of the Broad-winged, Red-tailed and Marsh Hawks were seen. Not a Red-shoulder or a Sparrow Hawk showed itself; not a Cooper's or migrating Sharp-shin appeared. Strangest of all, there were no Black Vultures! This was hard to reconcile. They occurred across the Bay at Norfolk and all along the Ocean Highway south of that city, as was noted coming up from South Carolina, and the writer

was told that they were to be seen on the western side of the Chesapeake. As day after day passed without one being seen, a determined effort was made each day to pick one out, but among the fairly numerous Turkey Vultures, not a Black appeared.

In a locality where everything pointed to an abundant mockingbird population, the bird was markedly uncommon. Widely scattered individuals were seen now and then to and from Eastville and Oyster; the song rarely heard. As a companion situation was the total absence of the Loggerhead Shrike. Like the Black Vulture not a specimen appeared, and the fact that other species which are found in the same locality with these two usually, were common to abundant, made the lack more striking. Cardinals, thrashers, Carolina Wrens, Tufted Titmouse and Yellow-throated Warblers were daily birds, and at night the woodlands rang with the calls of Chuck-wills-widow.

Marked attractions to northern visitors were the Acadian Flycatcher which was common and the Brown-headed Nuthatch which was much less so. Gnatcatchers, Summer Tanagers, and Boat-tailed Grackles came in for their share of attention, and the presence of the Blue Grosbeak was gratifying, this species being new to almost everyone. It was observed in but one locality but seen on several occasions, undoubtedly a nesting pair.

This section of the Eastern Shore is an intensive agricultural community, and the many farms have resulted in the attraction of certain species and scarcity of others. Much mechanized equipment was evident. Apparently there were few small mammals, which may account in part for the scarcity of the birds of prey. Only one owl was seen, the Screech, in Eastville itself.

Among species observed but once in the seven weeks were the Upland Plover (Cheriton, July 4th.), Canada Goose, four (Wreck Island, June 25th.), Kentucky Warbler (Eastville, June 30.), American Scoter (Wrecker Island, July 9th.) and Purple Martin (Oyster, July 3rd.)

Warblers were well represented with Black and White, Parula, Yellow-throated, Pine, Prairie, Kentucky, Ovenbird, and Yellow-breasted Chat. A total of 106 species was observed during the seven weeks, and the complete list follows below:

Wilson Petrel	Bank Swallow
Florida (?) Cormorant	Barn "
Great Blue Heron	Crow
Snowy Heron	Fish Crow
Little Blue Heron	Carolina Chickadee
Green Heron	Tufted Titmouse
Black-crowned Night Heron	Brown-headed Nuthatch
Canada Goose	Carolina Wren
Surf Scoter	Mockingbird
American Merganser	Catbird
Turkey Vulture	Brown Thrasher
Broad-winged Hawk	Robin
Bald Eagle	Wood Thrush
Osprey	Blue-grey Gnatcatcher
Bob-white	Starling
Clapper Rail	White-eyed Vireo
Oystercatcher	Yellow-throated Vireo

Semipalmated Plover	Red-eyed Vireo
Wilson Plover	Black and White Warbler
Killdeer	Parula Warbler
Black-bellied Plover	Yellow-throated Warbler
Ruddy Turnstone	Pine Warbler
Hudsonian Curlew	Prairie Warbler
Spotted Sandpiper	Kentucky Warbler
Willet	Ovenbird
Knot	Yellow-breasted Chat
White-rumped Sandpiper	English Sparrow
Least Sandpiper	Meadowlark
Semipalmated "	Red-winged Blackbird
Dowitcher	Orchard Oriole
Sanderling	Baltimore Oriole
Herring Gull	Boat-tailed Grackle
Laughing Gull	Florida (?) Grackle
Gull-billed Tern	Cowbird
Forster's Tern	Summer Tanager
Common "	Cardinal
Roseate "	Blue Grosbeak
Least "	Indigo Bunting
Royal "	Towhee
Black Skimmer	Seaside Sparrow
Mourning Dove	Vesper Sparrow
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Chipping "
Chuck-wills-widow	Field "
Nighthawk	Song "
Chimney Swift	Flicker
Downy Woodpecker	Kingbird
Crested Flycatcher	Acadian Flycatcher
Wood Pewee	

Added in July to the above list:

Red-tailed Hawk	Loon
Kingfisher	Greater Yellowlegs
Screech Owl	Marsh Hawk
American Scoter	Ruby-throated Hummer
Black Tern	Upland Plover
Purple Martin	Goldfinch

Charleston, South Carolina.

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AUDUBON SOCIETY WORK IN VIRGINIA

By J. J. Murray

Organized bird protection work in Virginia began in 1900 under the direction of the Protection Committee of the American Ornithologists' Union. The Chairman of this Committee was William Dutcher who was to become the founder and first President of the National Association of Audubon Societies at its organization in

1905. Thus, even before there was a National Association, Virginia was helped by the men who were to be the guiding spirit of the Association. Financial support came through the Thayer Fund of the A. O. U. In 1901 the Committee, with the magnificent sum of \$180 for field work in Virginia, was able to employ, or rather subsidize, eight wardens. The first wardens were Life-saving Station Captains, who guarded nesting colonies of sea-birds at Isaac's, Smith's, Cobb's, Hog, Paramore, Washapreague, Wallops and Cedar Islands. In 1902 the National Committee of Audubon Societies precursor of the National Association, took this work over, and from that time has not failed to give financial support to warden work on the Virginia coast.

Organized Audubon work within the State has been a matter of starts and stops, accomplishing at times, however, a great deal of good. A small Audubon Society was formed in the State in 1901, and began, with some assistance from Virginia members of the A. O. U., to work for protection laws. At that time there were practically no State Laws protecting birds in Virginia. Such laws as were in existence were a set of complicated county acts and altogether inadequate. For example, egging in the case of the tern colonies was legal until July 20, making it very difficult for these birds to reproduce themselves. At the 1902 session of the General Assembly a bill providing for better protection was introduced by James R. Caton but failed of passage. Very shortly thereafter, I think at the 1904 session, real progress was made, the main features of the A. O. U. Model Law being enacted. By this bill the disastrous practice of spring shooting was stopped. This first Audubon group seems to have been rather informally organized. In 1903 the Audubon Society of Virginia was organized as a State-wide project. Meetings of school children were held. Local societies, especially in the schools, were planned. But the very next year one of the leaders, Mr. E. C. Hough, reported to the National Committee that he was much discouraged at the apathy of the public. In 1906 protective legislation had a serious setback. The State law was amended so as to remove certain shore birds from the protected list and so as to lengthen the season on Robins which were then looked on as game birds. At the same time the legislature voted down a bill which had been introduced to set up a system of State game wardens supported by a license fee. It was 1912 before full protection was given to the Robin. By 1907 the State Society seems to have lapsed. No report was made to the National Association, which by this time had been organized. William Dutcher wrote that educational work was very badly needed in Virginia. In 1908 further discouragement came, when the legislature removed other birds from the protected list - hawks, owls, eagles, blackbirds, ricobirds, doves, Wilson's snipe and robin snipe. The National Association was carrying on its work in the State through this period. Warden service was continued, and field investigations were carried on. The Association sent Mr. A. C. Bent of "Life History" fame to Cobb's Island to make a careful study of the situation there. The Association was also conducting an educational campaign in Virginia to prepare the way for better legislation.

About this time Miss Katharine Stuart, who was for the next fifteen years the most influential person in Virginia in the work of nature education and bird protection, began her activities. At first she worked chiefly through the women's clubs and the schools. Due mainly to her influence, with the help of Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson of the National Association, a new Virginia Audubon Society was organized, in Richmond in April, 1908. The officers included Mrs. Moses D. Hoge, Jr., daughter-in-law of the great Richmond preacher, as President; Mrs. A. S. Buford as Secretary; and Mr. Max Hart of Ashland as Treasurer, a position which he held until he became president. In 1909 the Society had 250 members, 70 others being added in 1910. In 1910 the National Association of Audubon Societies employed Miss Katharine Stuart as a field lecturer in Virginia. She continued to hold this position through 1916.

Her work made it possible for thousands of children to receive instruction in bird study and bird protection. By 1913 there were in the State 112 Junior Audubon Clubs with 1,865 members, a number passed by only two Southern States and by only 12 in the whole country. In 1914 the number increased to 165 clubs with 3,000 members; and in 1917 there were added 1,517 new Junior members. In 1913 Miss Stuart's work was endorsed to the teachers by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Virginia Bird Day was generally observed on May 4. In the same year Mr. O. S. Campbell, owner of Smith's Island, which had formerly been the property of General W. H. Custis Lee, agreed when approached by Miss Stuart to make the island a bird sanctuary. In 1913 Mrs. William E. Harris of Richmond, and from 1914 to 1916 Mr. Max D. Hart of Ashland were Presidents of the State Society.

Everyone who was interested in bird protection in Virginia had been hoping for some organized State agency to promote this work. In 1914 Miss Stuart secured the support of the Federation of Woman's Clubs of Virginia for a petition to the General Assembly for the creation of a State Game Commission. Although this proposal went to the General Assembly with strong backing and was presented by a committee of which Col. Jennings C. Wise of Lexington was Chairman and Mr. Max D. Hart, then President of the Virginia Audubon Society, a member, it failed by a few votes. Two years later, however, a similar proposal, presented in a joint bill of the Virginia Audubon Society and the Farmers' Union, was passed. The bill establishing the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries was signed on March 13, 1916, the successful culmination of a fight begun eight years before. The local workers had the constant advice and help of the National Association in this campaign. Personal assistance was given by Dr. Pearson, and the Association contributed funds to the fight.

Another activity, begun by the National Association in 1915, was of great educational value to the State. From 1915 to 1922 lecturers on bird study were provided for certain summer schools in Virginia. Most of these courses were given at the University of Virginia, where Mr. Ludlow Griscom lectured in 1915, Mr. J. B. Ferneyhough in 1917 and 1918, and Miss Katharine Stuart in 1919-1922. In 1916 Mr. Henry Oldys lectured at five summer schools in the state. After 1916 the work of the Virginia Audubon Society practically ceased. Miss Stuart was no longer maintained by the National Association as a field worker, although she was used as a special lecturer and summer school worker.

Other activities in Virginia of the National Association, now known as the National Audubon Society, have been continued down to date. The work has consisted principally of three phases: (1). Warden service. One warden has been financed continuously for the work in the neighborhood of Cobb's Island. The warden for many years was Mr. J. R. Andrews. At his death in 1930 Captain George W. Cobb was appointed, who served until his tragic death in the severe storm of August, 1933. He was succeeded by his son, Mr. Warren N. Cobb. The present warden is Mr. E. J. Doughty, a former State game warden for Northampton County. (2) Junior Audubon Clubs. Virginia has always had a respectable position in the Junior Club enrollment lists, but the membership in recent years has been nothing like what it should be. With the support that the V. S. O. is now giving to this type of work and the work of Mrs. J. Frank Key, our Chairman for this work, there is good reason to hope for substantial gains. (3). Special help. The counsel and support of the National Audubon Society can always be counted on when there is a bounty bill to be defeated or any protective legislation to be advanced.

The writer realizes that this brief history of the work of the Audubon Societies, national and local, in Virginia is very inadequate. Nevertheless it seems worthwhile to make this collection of the facts that are scattered through letters and reports and magazine files. I must express my appreciation to Mr. Robert P. Allen, Director of Sanctuaries of the National Audubon Society, for digging out for me many of the facts that deal with the work of the Society in Virginia.

Lexington, Virginia.

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CALLS OF YOUNG YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOOS

Regularly each summer a pair of Yellow-billed Cuckoos make their home in a tract of deciduous woods along a small stream a half mile west of my home. Often in early spring have I watched them feeding on the tent caterpillars that defoliate some large wild cherry trees, Prunus serotina, that grow on the stream bank.

While in this woods on the morning of Sept. 3, two birds were heard, apparently answering each other while separated by a distance of about 75 yards. The calls were cuckoo like, but much softer and with less variation than those usually heard. They resembled the "cow-cow-cow" of the adults, but were in monotone and in the same time throughout. About nine times out of ten there were seven notes in each series. The calls were given quite regularly and at frequent intervals as the birds moved slowly through the tree tops. I watched them for more than a half hour, then went on down the creek, returning an hour later to find the birds still calling regularly.

This time one of them was in a low tree at the edge of the woods, where I got several good views of him with 6 X glasses at about 15 yards. They were typical Yellow-billed Cuckoos, but with short tail and wings showing that they were young birds. The large white spots on the outer tail feathers were clearly seen. Have others of the V. S. O. Family heard young cuckoos give these calls?

John B. Lewis,
Amelia, Virginia

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A BALD-HEADED CARDINAL

During the nesting season three pairs of Cardinals come regularly to our feeding station, while in rough winter weather as many as 10 to 12 individuals may be in sight at the same time.

Beginning in 1938, the male of one of our pairs has been going bald-headed each summer. About May 1, he begins to loose feathers from the top of his head and by midsummer he is entirely bald, with most of the feathers gone from the top of his neck.

In this plight he is a grotesque looking creature. The skin of his head and neck has the appearance of polished black shoe leather. In the early fall he grows another coat of feathers and by the time winter sets in he is as nicely dressed as a Cardinal should be.

He and his made regularly raise a brood of young, which they bring to the tray as soon as they are flying well. In the last week in August this year, "Old Baldy" began bringing a single youngster to the tray, which doubtless indicates a second brood.

This Cardinal is not banded, so I have no positive proof that it is the same bird that has gone bald in each of the three seasons, but circumstances certainly indicate that such is the case.

John B. Lewis, Amelia, Va.

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FAIRY STONE STATE PARK

Saturday night and most of the day Sunday, September 7, and 8th, 1940 were spent at Fairy Stone Park. Following is a list of birds seen:

Sept. 8, 1940 - Fairy Stone Park - Clear, calm, cool. 3 Turkey Vultures, 6 Doves, Chimney Swift, 3 Red-bellied Woodpeckers, 6 Tufted Titmouse, 5 Wood Pewee, 6 Chickadee, 2 Carolina Wren, 3 Mockingbird, 4 Catbird, 4 Brown Thrasher, 1 Cedar Bird, 6 Yellow-throated Vireo, 6 Red-eyed Vireo (singing), 1 White-eyed Vireo, 2 Black and White Warbler, 5 Pine Warbler, 1 Yellow-breasted Chat, 2 Yellow-throated Warbler, 3 Hooded Warbler, 2 Ovenbird, 2 Chat, 3 Redstart, 6 Indigo, 6 Cardinal, 3 Field Sparrows, 5 Song Sparrows, 3 Towhee, 2 White-breasted Nuthatch.

A Wilson Warbler was seen at Salem, September 18, 1940, the first record I have for Roanoke County.

M. G. Lewis, Salem, Virginia

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BACK BAY NOTES

On September 4, a small group of members made an all day trip down the coast of Virginia Beach. From Sand Bridge we drove along the beach to False Cape Life Guard Station, making several stops along the beach at fresh water pools and at fishing areas. Returning we left the beach at False Cape, crossed the sand dune "fence" and traveled over the Wash Flats adjacent to Back Bay. Stops also were made in this area and a luncheon stop at the Back Bay Refuge. From there the rest of the trip was made along the beach. In the group were Mrs. A. C. Reed, Mrs. Louise Lester, Mrs. C. A. Barefield, Mrs. Colgate Darden and Mr. and Mrs. A. O. English.

The following birds were seen: Double-crested Cormorant 1; American Egret 4; Black Duck 2; Black Tern 6; Pintail 6; Blue-winged Teal-75; Turkey Vulture 33; Black Vulture 2; Bald Eagle 2; Osprey 6, Piping Plover 3; Semipalmated Plover 10; Black-bellied Plover 34; Turnstone 30; Woodcock 1; Willet 21; Lesser Yellow-legs 4; Least Sandpiper 12; Semipalmated Sandpiper 50; Western Sandpiper 1; Sanderling (common); Herring Gull 50; Ring-billed Gull 20; Laughing Gull 20; Least Tern 4; Common Tern 50; Caspian Tern 20; Gull-billed Tern 1; Royal Tern 10; Fish Crow 3; Meadowlark 2; Black Skimmer 2; Boat-tailed Grackle 50.

A. O. English, Roanoke, Va.

The 1940 Christmas Census

In Bird-Lore's Fortieth Christmas Census list ten Virginia censuses appeared, the highest number our State has ever had. We are hoping that this record will be surpassed in the Forty-first Christmas Census. Dates have been now set for this census. No report taken before December 22, or later than December 29, will be printed in Bird-Lore, and no census report received in New York after January 4. The usual rules apply. The diameter of the area must not exceed fifteen miles; the list must be submitted in the 1931 A. O. U. Check-List order (the order followed in Peterson's Guide and in the revised edition of Chapman's Handbook); lists are to be typed, if possible, and on one side of the paper; the trip must last at least six hours and not extend over more than one day; unusual records must have a brief statement as to the means of identification; each report must contain the total number of party hours and party miles made by all groups and individuals working on the census. In short, every census taker should study last year's reports in Bird-Lore and follow the methods indicated there. The report should be mailed by the first possible mail to * The Editor, Bird-Lore, 1006 Fifth Avenue, New York City. Because of the mounting cost of printing census, the Editor would appreciate it if ten cents is sent with each report to help with the printing. A duplicate should be sent to Dr. J. J. Murray, Lexington, Virginia, for publication in the January, 1941 issue of the Raven.



The Raven

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Nos. 11 & 12

BIRD NOTES FROM SEWARD FOREST

By John B. Lewis

Last September 17th Mrs. Lewis and I left what had been our home in Amelia county for ten and a half years, to establish a new home in the Seward Forest, in southeastern Brunswick county. This meant a migration of 65 miles to the south-eastward, and a descent in average elevation of about 100 feet. These changes combined should make some slight changes in the bird population. First let me explain what the Seward Forest is. Seward Forest is a tract of 3,500 acres of land, mostly wooded. It is the property of the University of Virginia and is used as a forestry experiment station and a place to give forestry students practical training and experience. My work here, for the coming twelve months at least, will be to make a biological survey of the forest area and immediately adjacent territory. After arriving at the Forest most of my time was devoted to collecting and classifying plants until frost came. Since then it has been used in studying and collecting mammals, but as usual I keep an eye on the birds all of the time.

As our home was in Brunswick County for seventeen years before going to Amelia, some of the differences in the bird populating were already known. The Yellow-throated Warbler and Chuck-Will's-widow are common summer residents in Brunswick, but ten years of observation in Amelia gave only one record for each. The Brown-headed Nuthatch is a fairly common though very erratic resident in the south half of Brunswick, but only accidental in Amelia. Since early November the Winter Wren has been more common here than I ever saw it anywhere else. Whether its present abundance is sporadic and will not occur another year remains to be seen. In nearly three months residence I have not seen an English Sparrow or Starling on the Seward Forest, although there is near the headquarters a stable where three mules are kept and fed.

On November 9, a pair of friends drove out from Lawrenceville to bring me a Loon, Gavia immer immer, that had been picked up on a highway early that morning. They thought it must have a broken wing, or other injury, as it had not flown when approached. It was in a fighting mood, and when I dumped it out of the burlap bag I had to do some lively dodging to save my legs from its sharp bill. It made

no attempt to walk, but made forward lunges, sliding its self over the ground with both feet at once. By throwing a bag over it and getting a firm grip on its head with one hand, then placing my knee firmly on its back, I managed to get its measurements and color markings. It was then taken to Rattlesnake Creek and dumped out of the bag at the edge of a large pool. Before noticing the water it made a savage lunge at my legs. Then it dived in and swam about thirty yards under water before coming to the surface. We watched it for some time as it swam up stream, mostly under water. Two days later I was along the creek a half mile farther down, when to my surprise, I saw a loon, doubtless the same bird. It was watched for twenty minutes with glasses. It spent most of the time under water, doubtless seeking food. It has not been seen since, although I have been along the creek a number of times. It gave a rather soft, whistling "whee-e-e-u", several times, both while in the bag and after it was liberated.

This is the third instance that has been brought to my attention of loons having been found stranded on highways in the early morning. Is it not probable that when migrating at night, especially when there is moonlight, they mistake a highway for a stream and land upon it? Once down, they are helpless, as they can take wing only from water.

I have one previous record of the loon in Brunswick county. One was shot on Meherrin river by a hunter, January 16, 1914, and brought to me for identification.

Seward Forest, Triplet, Va.

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A Black-poll's Bath

Every bird watcher knows that birds love to bathe. Bathing water, indeed, is almost as necessary as drinking water or food. Birds resort to many ingenious expedients when water is scarce. Everyone has seen Robins come to the spray of the hose when the garden is watered. Snow scarcely begins to melt before birds are bathing in the rivulets at the edge of the road. I have even seen birds bathe from the dew on weeds and shrubbery. During a recent fall migration I saw a method that was new to me. A Black-poll Warbler took his bath in the top of a maple in our yard. When I first noticed the bird fluttering among the leaves on a thick branch I paid little attention, for it is the custom of many of the warblers to balace in the air before a branch while picking insects off the leaves. This bird, however, was shaking the leaves so vigorously that I took a second look, to discover that it was taking advantage of the heavy dew on the leaves for a bath. Fluffing out its feathers and brushing busily against the leaves it succeeded in getting thoroughly wet. This ponge bath seemed to be quite a satisfactory substitute for the real thing.

J. J. Murray

VIRGINIA IN THE 1940 LITERATURE

The Auk. In the January issue (pp. 95-104) in "Geographical Variation in the Carolina Wren," George H. Lowery, Jr., proposes a number of new races for this bird. Washington specimens and 37 Virginia specimens, all of which come from northern and eastern Virginia, are assigned to a northern race, Thryothorus ludovicianus carolinianus. His map would indicate that the southern race would enter the southwestern part of the State. It remains to be seen whether his conclusions will be generally accepted. In a note (p. 113) on "A detail in the ecology of the Mourning Dove," Gordon W. Jones mentions a fatal habit in this bird of roosting so low on bent cornstalks that they are easily captured by predators. J. J. Murray has a note, "An odd nest of the Carolina Wren", (p. 114), this being the nest seen by the V. S. O. party on the field trip held in connection with the Lexington meeting. In the April issue Dr. Frank M. Chapman in his paper, "Further Studies of the Genus Quiscalus", (pp. 225-233), tentatively identifies worn specimens from Newport News as between quiscula and stonei, but points out the need of more material from the interesting region of eastern Virginia. Edward Addy, in the July issue (pp. 422-423) in "Notes from Virginia", cites records from Montgomery County for the Black Rail, Long-eared Owl, and Pine Warbler. In the October issue William Johnston Howard discusses the "Wintering of the Greater Snow Geese" (pp. 523-531) on the coast of Virginia, with notes also on the Blue Geese in this region. J. J. Murray (p. 566) reports records for the "Purple Gallinule and King Rail at Lexington, Virginia", the former on May 16, 1940, and the latter on May 15, 1940. In "Mimicry by a Brown Thrasher," (p. 574), W. L. McAtee describes the song of a bird at Vienna, Virginia, that imitated half a dozen other birds. He concludes with Forbush that mimicry is exceptional in this species.

The Wilson Bulletin. The first three issues appear to have nothing that particularly concerns our region. The December issue will probably have further notes by the writer on water birds of Rockbridge County.

Bird Lore. There are nine Christmas Censuses from Virginia in the Supplement to the January-February issue (pp. 90-92), from the following places: Amelia, Blacksburg, Harrisonburg, Lexington, Lynchburg, Norfolk, Roanoke, Stuarts Draft, and Washington's Birthplace. The March-April issue (p. 193) has an account of the plan by the National Audubon Society for Cobb Island Tours. These tours during the breeding season were well-attended and very successful. Readers of The Raven will be interested in the new section appearing in each issue in The Season Section of Bird Lore. This new section, entitled "Carolina Region", and edited by C. S. Brimley and John H. Grey, Jr., takes in the southeast corner of Virginia in its reports.

Bird-Banding. A paper, "Banding of Chimney Swifts (Chaetura pelagica), in the Region of Chattanooga, Tennessee," by Wyman R. Green, in the April issue (pp. 37-57), gives a considerable number of captures in Virginia of birds banded in Tennessee. The October issue has a paper, "The Migration of Kent Island Herring Gull", by Alfred O. Gross, (pp. 129-155), showing returns in Virginia of Herring Gulls banded at Kent Island, Canada, and on the Great Lakes.

The Oologist. F. M. Jones has an article, "The Bald Eagle", in the March issue, (pp. 28-31), in which he not only tells about Eagle's nests in Virginia, but also about the nests of Ruffed Grouse and Parula and Cerulean Warblers. In the August issue Mr. Jones has another paper, "Notes from Southwest Virginia", (pp. 88-93) in which he discusses the nests of Ravens, Crows, Green Herons, Prairie Warblers,

Bachman's Sparrows, Goldfinches, and other birds. The present writer has a paper, "Additional Notes on the Land Birds of Rockbridge County, Virginia", in the September issue, (pp. 101-103).

J. J. Murray

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Index to Volume Eleven

(In closing volume ten of The Raven a partial index was prepared. This seemed to meet with the approval of the members of the V. S. O., so we are continuing the plan as we close volume eleven. The first index was only an index of titles and places and people. The names of species were indexed only in the case of birds of some unusual interest. This time the index is being made complete. So far as possible all titles of papers and notes are included; all places and people mentioned are listed; and with the exception of the Christmas Census reports every mention of every species is listed. This greatly increases both the size of the index and the labor of preparing it. The editor would be glad to know whether the members feel that this is worth doing. Page numbers follow each entry in the index.

The Executive Committee requested the editor to prepare a Ten Year Index for the first ten volumes. It has not been possible to complete that index during 1940. A beginning has been made; and it is hoped that it can be published in the Raven during 1941.)

Additions to Montgomery County List - 13
 Additions to Our Virginia List - 30
 Addy, C. E. - 11 - 17 - 34 - 64
 Alexandria - 12 - 30
 Alleghany County - 18
 Amelia - 8 - 18 - 42 - 50 - 52 - 60 - 63
 Amelia Bird Notes - 42
 Amelia Sub-Species - 52
 Amherst County - 40
 Annual Meeting - 7 - 15 - 20
 Audubon Society Work in Virginia - 57 - 65
 Augusta County - 19
 Back Bay - 6- 31 - 48 - 61
 Back Bay Notes - 61
 Bailey, Harry - 5- 6 - 22 - 31 - 48
 Balcony Falls - 45
 Bald-headed Cardinal, A - 60
 Baldpate - 23 - 32
 Ball, Miss Ada - 48
 Barefield, A. C. - 48
 Barefield, Mrs. A. C. - 5 - 6 - 8 - 31 - 61
 Barefield, Leroy - 48
 Backer, Miss Edna - 10
 Bedford County - 45
 Big Island - 45
 Big Levels Game Refuge - 9
 Bird Haven, Lynchburg, Va. - 44

- Birds of the Mountains -
Bird Notes from Norfolk - 31
Bird Notes from Seward Forest - 63
Bird Observing at Blacksburg, Virginia - 46
Bittern, American - 2 - 5 - 23
" Least - 2
Black-poll's Bath, A - 64
Blacksburg - 10 - 13 - 46 - 65
Bland County - 18
Bluebird - 23 - 38 - 49
Blue Jay - 23 - 38
Bobolink - 24 - 33
Bobwhite - 23 - 38 - 47 - 49 - 56
Boggs, I. B. - 1
Brimley, C. S. - 65
Brooks, Maurice - 1
Brown, Ralph M. - 46
Brunswick County - 63
Bufflehead - 32
Buffalo Mountain - 17 - 18
Bull Mountain - 17
Bunting, Indigo - 24 - 39 - 41 - 47 - 49 - 57
" , Snow - 32
Burke's Garden - 36 - 51 - 52
Calls of Young Yellow-billed Cuckoos - 60
Calvert, Edward - 9
Canvas-back - 32
Cardinal - 12 - 24 - 33 - 39 - 47 - 49 - 56 - 60 - 61
Carolinian Observations of the Eastern Shore - 54
Carroll, Robert P. - 10
Carter's Mountain - 17
Catbird - 23 - 38 - 40 - 47 - 49 - 56 - 61
Chincoteague - 1 - 50
Christmas Census in Virginia, the 1939 - 8 - 65
Christmas Census, The 1940 - 62
Chuck-will's-widow - 57 - 63
Clark, Austin H. - 51
Clark, T. E. - 20
Cobb's Island - 1 - 54 - 65
Coffey, Mrs. Ben - 48
Cold Mountain - 40
Coot - 18 - 32
Cormorant, Double-crested - 7 - 13 - 49 - 50 - 56 - 61
Cowbird - 5 - 17 - 24 - 57
Creeper, Brown - 12
Crow - 23 - 38 - 47 - 49 - 56 - 65
Crow, Fish - 14 - 47 - 49 - 56 - 61
Cuckoo, Black-billed - 38
" , Yellow-billed - 49 - 57 - 60
Curlew, Hudsonian - 3 - 32 - 47 - 57
Daniel, Miss Bertha - 43 - 52
Danville - 45

- Darden, Mrs. C. W., Jr. - 6 - 61
Day on the Blue Ridge Parkway, A - 47
DeGarmo, W. R. - 10
Dove, Mourning - 18 - 23 - 38 - 47 - 49 - 57 - 61 - 64
Dove, Rock - 14
Dovekie - 6 - 16
Dowitcher - 3 - 32 - 57
Duck, Black - 7 - 12 - 23 - 42 - 61
" , Red-logged Black - 14
" , Ring-necked - 32
" , Wood - 5 - 23 - 33 - 37
Eagles, Bald - 44 - 49 - 50 - 55 - 61 - 65
" , Golden - 23
Egret, American - 2 - 13 - 49 - 55 - 61
" , Snowy - 2 - 56
Ellis, Kenneth - 7
Engleby, T. L. - 10 - 21
English, A. O. - 10 - 21 - 61
" , Mrs. A. O. - 61
Essex County - 51
Fairy Stone State Park - 61
Field Trip, Tenth Annual - 22
Finch, Purple - 18 - 32
Flicker - 23 - 38 - 47 - 57
Floyd County - 17 - 18 - 47
Flycatcher, Acadian - 23 - 57
" , Crested - 23 - 38 - 41 - 47 - 49 - 52 - 57
" , Least - 47
Franklin County - 19 - 47
Freer, Ruskin S. - 9 - 21 - 40 - 43 - 44 - 49
Gadwall - 32
Gallinule, Florida - 32
" , Purple - 64
Gannet - 6 - 16 - 32
George, John - 1
George Washington National Forest - 20
Giles County - 18
Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray - 56
Golden-eye - 32
Golden-winged Warbler at Naruna - 52
Goldfinch - 12 - 24 - 39 - 42 - 57 - 65
Goose, Blue - 64
" , Canada - 49 - 56
" , Snow - 6 - 64
Grackle, Boat-tailed - 49 - 57 - 61
" , Purple - 24 - 39 - 49 - 62 - 57 - 64
Graham, Mr. & Mrs. Richard M. - 30
Grebe, Horned - 31
" , Pied-billed - 49
Grey, John H., Jr. - 5 - 6 - 20 - 21 - 48 - 61
Grosbeak, Blue - 17 - 46 - 57
" , Evening - 50
" , Rose-breasted - 17 - 24 - 39 - 40
Grouse, Ruffed - 23 - 37 - 47 - 65

- Gull, Bonaparte's - 45
 " , Herring - 3 - 12 - 14 - 49 - 50 - 57 - 61 - 65
 " , Ring-billed - 3 - 12 - 49 - 61
 " , Laughing - 3 - 49 - 50 - 55 - 57 - 61
 Hague, Dr. Florence S. - 21
 Handley, C. O. - 11 - 21 - 34
 Handley, C. O. Jr., - 11 - 13 - 17
 Harrisonburg, - 9 - 20 - 65
 Hawk, American Rough-legged - 14
 " , Cooper's - 17 - 23
 " , Broad-winged - 23 - 55
 " , Duck - 5 - 17 - 23
 " , Marsh - 55 - 57
 " , Red-shouldered - 23 - 47
 " , Red-tailed - 37 - 55 - 57
 " , Sharp-shinned - 17 - 23 - 37
 " , Sparrow - 23 - 37 - 47
 Heron, Black-crowned Night - 2 - 6 - 23 - 55
 " , Great Blue - 2 - 23 - 32 - 33 - 49 - 55
 " , Green - 23 - 49 - 55 - 65
 " , Little Blue - 2 - 32 - 49 - 52 - 55
 " , Louisiana - 2 - 13 - 55
 " , Yellow-crowned Night - 6
 Hostetter, D. Ralph - 8 - 9 - 16 - 20 - 28
 Hot Springs - 7
 Hummingbird, Ruby-throated - 23 - 38 - 49 - 51 - 57
 Interesting Observations from Southwest Virginia - 17
 Jones, F. M. - 65
 Jones, Gordon W. - 64
 Junco, Carolina - 13-15 - 17 - 24 - 39 - 41 (nest)
 " , Slate-colored - 12
 Kernan, Rev. Charles - 42
 Key, Mrs. J. Frank - 20
 Killdeer - 3 - 23- 38 - 57
 Kingbird - 23 - 38 - 47 - 49 - 57
 Kingfisher - 23 - 57
 Kinglet, Golden-crowned - 12 - 17
 King William County - 50
 Knot - 3 - 14 - 57
 Lawless, Kenneth - 9
 Lehman, Harold D. - 9
 Lester, Mrs. Louise - 5 - 61
 Lewis, John B. - 8 - 18 - 42 - 52 - 60 - 60 - 63
 Lewis, M. G. - 10 - 20 - 21 - 47 - 61
 Lexington - 7 - 10 - 64 - 65 - 65
 Llewellyn, Leonard - 11
 Longspur, Lapland - 46
 Loon, Common - 6 - 31 - 57 - 63
 " , Red-throated - 6
 Lunenburg County - 49
 Lynchburg - 9 - 40 - 43 - 44 - 65
 Magpie, American - 44
 Mahan, John - 21
 Mallard - 7 - 23 - 42

- Margolin, A. S. - 1
 Martin, Purple - 49 - 57
 Meadowlark - 4-24- 39 - 47 - 49 - 57 - 61
 Membership - 21 (classes) - 25 (list)
 Merganser, American - 12 - 32- 45 - 56
 " , Hooded - 32
 " , Red-breasted - 14- 23- 31 - 32
 Mockingbird, - 23 - 37 - 49 - 55 - 56 - 61
 Montgomery County - 64
 Mountain Lake - 45
 Murray, Kickson Vardell - 10
 " , J. J. - 7 - 10 - 19 - 20 - 22 - 27 - 36 -44 -45 - 52 -53 - 57 - 64 - 65
 " , Jimmy - 10
 McIllwaine, William B. Jr., - 12 - 21 - 30 - 48
 McIntosh, Bill - 9
 McLain, Miss Sallie - 10
 Naruna - 52
 New Bird for the Virginia List - 44
 Newport News - 64
 Nighthawk - 23 - 57
 Norfolk - 4 - 8 - 31 - 65
 Norfolk Bird News - 4
 Northampton County - 1 - 54
 Northern Skua off Virginia Coast - 16
 Notes on Distribution of Loggerhead & Migrant Shrike in Virginia - 34
 Nuthatch - Brown-headed - 6 - 56 - 63
 " , Red-breasted - 6 - 17 - 23
 " , White-breasted - 23 - 38 - 61
 Old-squaw - 6 - 31 - 32 - 43
 Osprey - 6 - 42 - 49 - 50 - 55 - 61
 Oriole, Baltimore - 24 - 57
 " , Orchard - 24 - 49 - 57
 Ovenbird - 23 - 32 - 39 - 47 - 57 - 61
 Owl, Barred - 9 - 38
 " , Great Horned - 43 (nest) - 47
 " , Long-eared - 64
 " , Saw-whet - 7
 " , Screech - 47 - 57
 " , Short-eared - 4
 Oyster-catcher - 2 - 5 - 56
 Patrick County - 17
 Pea Island (N. C.) - 6
 Pelican, Brown - 32
 Petrel, Wilson's - 50 - 56
 Powee, Wood - 23 - 38 - 47 - 57 - 61
 Phoebe - 18 - 23 - 38
 Pillans, Miss Helen - 10
 Pintail - 32 - 61
 Pipit - 5 - 6 - 32
 Plover, Black-bellied - 2 - 14 - 32 - 49 - 57 - 61
 " , Golden - 14
 " , Piping - 2- 32 - 49 - 61
 " , Semipalmated - 2 - 49 - 57 - 61

- Plover, Upland - 57
" , Wilson's - 2 - 57
Pough, Richard H. - 16
Pound - 17
Powhatan County - 44
Pulaski County - 18
Pungo - 33
Rail, Black - 14 - 64
" , Carolina - 32
" , Clapper - 1 - 56
" , King - 64
" , Virginia - 23
Rambler, The - 49
Rappahannock County - 19
Raven - 17 - 23 - 38 - 41 - 47 - 53 (nest) - 65
Redhead - 32
Redstart - 24 - 39 - 47 - 61
Red-wing - 12 - 24 - 39 - 49 - 57
Reed, A. C. - 48
Reed, Mrs. A. C. - 4 - 8 - 20 - 31 - 48 - 61
Rivers, D. G. - 11
Roanoke - 10 - 65
Roanoke County - 10 - 19 - 61
Robin - 12 - 18 - 23 - 38 - 47 - 56
" , Eastern - 15
Rockbridge County - 45 - 64 - 65
Ryland, Miss Elizabeth - 48
Salem - 61
Sanderling - 3 - 49 - 57 - 61
Sandpiper, Baird's - 15
" , Least - 3- 42- 49 - 57 - 61
" , Pectoral - 3- 5
" , Red-backed - 32
" , Semipalmated - 3- 32 - 57 - 61
" , Solitary - 3 - 23
" , Spotted - 3- 23 - 57
" , Western - 3- 15 - 61
" , White-rumped - 14 - 57
Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied - 23- 40
Saw-whet Owl at Hot Springs - 7
Scattered Virginia Notes - 44
Scaup - 6 - 18 - 23 - 42 - 43 - 45
Scoter, American - 6 - 31 - 57
" , Surf - 6 - 31 - 56
" , White-winged - 6 - 31 - 43
Seward Forest - 63
Shenandoah National Forest - 53
Shipley, Donald - 11
Shoveller - 45
Shrike, Loggerhead - 34 - 50
" , Migrant - 23 - 34
Siskin, Pine - 17 - 18
Skimmer, Black - 4- 57 - 61

- Skua, Northern - 16
Snipe, Wilson's - 23
Sora - 32
Southwest Virginia - 65
Sparrow, Bachman's - 49 - 65
" , Chipping - 24- 40 - 47 - 57
" , English - 13 - 24- 39 - 49 - 57
" , Field - 24- 40 - 47 - 49 - 57 - 61
" , Fox - 12 - 18
" , Grasshopper - 24 - 39
" , Henslow's - 42 - 49 - 50 - 51
" , Seaside - 57
" , Song - 12 - 24 - 40 - 47 - 49 - 57 - 61
" , Atlantic Song - 4
" , Swamp - 7 - 17 - 24
" , Tree - 12 - 18
" , Vesper - 24 - 39 - 41 - 57
" , White-crowned - 5 - 24
" , White-throated - 12 - 24
Sprunt, Alexander, Jr. - 54
Starling - 23 - 39 - 52 - 56
Stevens, Kingsley - 9
Stewart, J. Thomas - 48
Stilt, Black-necked - 33
Stuart - 17
Stuart's Draft - 9 - 65
Summer Birds of Burke's Garden, Virginia - 36
Suter, Daniel B. - 9
Swallow, Bank - 50 - 56
" , Barn - 23 - 38 - 41 - 47 - 49 - 50 - 56
" , Cliff - 23
" , Rough-winged - 23 - 38
" , Tree - 6- 49 - 50
Swan, Whistling - 6
Swift - 23 - 38 - 47 - 49 - 57 - 61 - 65
Swift Creek Notes - 52
Sydnor, James R. - 10
Tanager, Scarlet - 24 - 39 - 41 - 53
" , Summer - 32 - 47 - 53 - 57
Teal, Blue-winged - 23- 32 - 61
" , Green-winged - 7 - 32
Tenth Annual Meeting of the V. S. O. - 20
Tenth Annual V. S. O. Field Trip - 22
Tern, Black - 23- 49 - 57 - 61
" , Caspian - 32 - 61
" , Common - 4 - 49 - 57 - 61
" , Forster's - 4 - 6 - 13 - 15 - 57
" , Gull-billed - 3 - 49 - 57 - 61
" , Least - 4 - 49 - 57 - 61
" , Roseate - 57
" , Royal - 4 - 32 - 49 - 57 - 61
Thornton, J. E. - 10

- Thrasher, Brown - 18 (winter) - 23 - 38 - 47 - 49 - 56 - 61 - 64
Thrush, Gray-checked - 15 - 46
" , Olive-backed - 23
" , Wood - 23 - 32 - 38 - 40 - 47 - 56
Titmouse, Tufted - 23 - 38 - 47 - 56 - 61
Topographic Survey of Virginia Ornithology, A - 27
Towhee, Red-eyed - 7 - 24 - 39 - 40 - 47 - 57 - 61
Treasurer's Report - 24
Turkey, Eastern - 38 - 42 (inset)
Turnstone, Ruddy - 2 - 49 - 57 - 61
Two Rare Ducks at Lynchburg - 43
Tyrrell, W. Bryant - 53
Veery - 17 - 23 - 38 - 40
Vireo, Mountain - 14 - 17 - 23 - 39 - 41 - 46 - 47
" , Philadelphia - 14
" , Red-eyed - 23 - 39 - 40 - 47 - 57 - 61
" , Warbling - 23
" , White-eyed - 14 - 39 - 46 - 49 - 56 - 61
" , Yellow-throated - 23 - 39 - 52 - 56 - 61
V. S. O. - 7 - 15 - 20 - 21 (officers) - 40 (Lynchburg branch)
V. S. O. Visits the Beach and Back Bay - 48
Virginia in the 1940 Literature - 65
"Virginia Conservation Guide" (Review) - 53
Virginia Notes - 51
Visit to Cobbs' Island during Autumnal Shore Bird Migration, A - 1
Vulture, Black - 18 - 19 - 37 - 41 - 45 - 47 - 49 - 55 - 61
" , Turkey - 23 - 37 - 41 - 47 - 49 - 55 - 61 - 61
Walker, Sam - 6
Warbler, Bay-breasted - 15 - 23 - 46
" , Black and White - 23 - 47 - 57 - 61
" , Blackburnian - 23 - 39
" , Blackpoll - 23 - 42 - 64
" , Black-throated Blue - 23
" , Black-throated Green - 17 - 23 - 47
" , Blue-winged - 46
" , Cairns's - 15 - 17 - 23 - 39 - 41 - 47
" , Canada - 17 - 24 - 39 - 40 - 47
" , Cape May - 5 - 23
" , Cerulean - 17 - 18 - 23 - 65
" , Chestnut-sided - 17 - 23 - 39 - 40
" , Connecticut - 15
" , Golden-winged - 52
" , Hooded - 24 - 32 - 39 - 40 - 47 - 61
" , Kentucky - 17 - 32 - 39 - 52 - 57
" , Magnolia - 17 - 23
" , Mourning - 15
" , Myrtle - 18 - 23
" , Nashville - 15 - 46
" , Parula - 17 - 23 - 39 - 47 - 52 - 57 - 65
" , Pine - 23 - 47 - 49 - 57 - 61 - 64
" , Prairie - 23 - 47 - 49 - 57 - 65
" , Prothonotary - 32
" , Western Palm - 15 - 17
" , Worm-eating - 23

- Warbler, Yellow - 23 - 39 - 43 - 49
" , Yellow-Palm - 5
" , Yellow-throated - 32 - 45 - 52 - 57 - 61 - 63
Washington's Birthplace - 65
Water-thrush, Louisiana - 23 - 32
" , Northern - 15 - 23 - 42
Waxwing, Cedar - 39 - 61
Westmoreland County - 51
White-crowned Choir, The - 43
White Top Mountain - 17 - 51
Why I make No Christmas Census - 10
Widgeon, European - 32
Willet - 3 - 49 - 57 - 61
Williams, William - 20
Wiltshire, Mrs. James W. - 9
Winter Notes from Amelia - 18
Wise County - 17
Wood, Carroll, - 10
Wood, Roy - 11
Woodcock - 23 - 61
Woodpecker, Downy - 23 - 38 - 49 - 57
Woodpecker, Hairy - 23 - 38
" , Pileated - 23 - 47
" , Red-bellied - 7 - 38 - 47 - 61
" , Red-headed - 23 - 38 - 52
Woolley, D. J. - 11
Wren, Bewick's - 6 - 7 - 23 - 38 - 41 - 47
" , Carolina - 12 - 23 - 47 - 49 - 56 - 61 - 64 - 64
" , House - 17 - 23 - 41 - 47 - 49 - 52
" , Ohio House - 52
" , Long-billed Marsh - 5 - 23 - 49 - 50
" , Short-billed Marsh - 5
" , Winter - 5 - 12 - 17 - 23 - 32 - 63
Yellow-legs, Greater - 3 - 5 - 32 - 57
" , Lesser - 3 - 23 - 32 - 49 - 61
Yellow-throat, Maryland - 24 - 47 - 52 (nest)
" , Northern - 39